

Snyder, Jessica

From: blueponybasketball@hotmail.com
Sent: Friday, March 01, 2019 1:56 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 01 (Wirt)--Public Comment: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Name: Jason Wirt

City: Corvallis

This rule amendment is essential to allowing commercial fisherman to spread out and provide a quality experience for their clients as well as the non-commercial anglers. As a commercial fisherman I am in support of the regulations on the West Fork but the sections are too short. If you compare the other river (Big Hole) these similar regulations were instituted, the sections were much longer, allowing for commercial fisherman to utilize a full day in the sections. This simple change will allow boats to spread out naturally and not all be bunched together because we have to utilize every inch the section to maximize the day.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions' Public Notice Web Page.

Snyder, Jessica

From: edandck@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2019 2:54 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 02 (Gannon)--Public Comment: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Name: Edward Gannon

City: Darby

The proposed rule changes will increase the number of "floats" allowed on the West Fork. There is still too many commercial guides and "floats" active on the West Fork, even with the new regulations. Anything that will theoretically increase the number of commercial boats or "floats" on the West Fork should be vehemently opposed by FWP.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions' Public Notice Web Page.

Snyder, Jessica

From: John E. Kissel <jekcak4700@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 16, 2019 10:33 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 03 (Kissel)--Bitterroot floats

Do not change the wording of the agreement. You are opening a can of worms. It is working as agreed with all, from different viewpoints. Thank You.

John E. Kissel
Corvallis Mt

Snyder, Jessica

From: Snyder, Jessica
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 8:41 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 04 (Harness, B)--FW: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

From: William Harness <moparharn@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 8:31 AM
To: Snyder, Jessica <JessSnyder@mt.gov>
Subject: Re: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Jessica,

I commented last year regarding the river restrictions and it did not seem to matter much. Frankly, I am growing tired of the whole situation. We have been coming to the Bitterroot Valley for the last 25 years to fish each July. Becoming a part of some traffic jam exercise by the DFWP is ruining the experience for me. I realize you have a job to do, and protecting the wildlife is of paramount importance, but my activity in the Valley has done nothing but bring important revenue to the area all while having little or no impact on the environment. We keep nothing. We kill very few. We do not litter. We do not "carry on" while on the river. Why not enforce behavior and let people fish where they want to and when they want to? Huge fines for violations of any sort. It has come to the point where I would rather just go somewhere else. The experience is being ruined by DFWP and not by too many fishermen on the river at any given time. Maybe it is time to spend our money in Alaska or Canada. I wish I could be more positive, but the Valley is losing its allure. It all seems so counterintuitive. Enforce the rules and let the market establish its own levels. If it gets too crowded fishermen will go elsewhere. I am not flying out to the Valley so that I can have my limited time restricted by access rules. Maybe that is exactly what you want. I wish you the very best success in managing this amazing resource.

Bill Harness

On Feb 22, 2019, at 10:03 AM, Snyder, Jessica <JessSnyder@mt.gov> wrote:

<image002.jpg>

February 22, 2019

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The Commission is proposing the amendments to address concerns that were raised with the rules since their adoption in 2018. Concerns include:

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The department analyzed the 2018 monitoring data and based on the data analysis and feedback provided, the Commission is proposing amending Administrative Rule of Montana 12.11.6302 to change "floats" to "launches," provide a definition for "launch," and provide a timeframe from June 1 to September 15 for the launch restriction per section of river for commercial use permit holders, instead of the restriction being year-round. The commission is also proposing to amend ARM 12.11.6306 to reflect the correct starting year that the five-year review is to occur, from 2024 to 2022. These amendments should ease restrictions on commercial users, spread out congestion at access sites, and not affect non-commercial use in restricted sections.

A public hearing will be held on March 19, 2019 at 6 p.m. at the Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor’s Office, 1801 North 1st Street in Hamilton, Montana to discuss the proposed changes and take public comment. Public comments must be received no later than March 22, 2019 and can be provided at the public hearing or in writing to:

Bitterroot River Recreation
Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT, 59804
e-mail: shrose@mt.gov
website: http://fwphIncmstst002.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/rules/pn_0274.html

Thank you for your interest in Montana’s fish, wildlife, and parks!

<12-508pro-arm.pdf>

Snyder, Jessica

From: Snyder, Jessica
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 12:37 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 05a (Marovelli)--FW: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

From: Loren Marovelli <marovellil@hughes.net>
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 12:35 PM
To: Snyder, Jessica <JessSnyder@mt.gov>
Subject: Re: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Jessica Snyder,

How do these Amendments affect the existing prohibition of Commercial Use on the Upper Bitterroot River between Painted Rocks Dam to Applebury Forest Service Site on Fridays ???

Respectfully submitted,

Loren Marovelli

From: "Jessica Snyder" <JessSnyder@mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 8:03:10 AM
Subject: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

FWP.MT.GOV



THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN I

February 22, 2019

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Thank you for your interest in Montana’s fish, wildlife, and parks!

Snyder, Jessica

From: Loren Marovelli <marovellil@hughes.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2019 9:44 AM
To: Rose, Sharon; Arnold, Randy
Subject: 05b (Marovelli)--Fwd: West Fork needs your help
Attachments: WFFC Alternate proposal 3-6-19.docx; WFFC email signup attachment.docx

I Concur w/ the commentary offered by Mr. Stranahan. I live along the West Fork near mile marker 20 and have been Disgusted in Recent Years by the Abusive Overuse of this Fishery by Commercial Float Interests. I am considering relocating my Retirement Residence as a result. I am totally Disgusted by the Lack of Action provided by FWP to Protect this small stream from Commercial Interests.

It is a shame that I must drive over the pass into Idaho or to Dillon to find some Solace while fly fishing.

Disgusted on the West Fork

L. Marovelli

From: "Chuck Stranahan" <chuck@chuck-stranahan.com>
To: "Flyfishing Friends" <chuck@chuck-stranahan.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2019 12:33:21 AM
Subject: West Fork needs your help

Fly Fishing Friends,

Thank you for your support for the **West Fork Fishery Conservancy**. If you are not yet a member, please [see our](#) attachment.

Right now the WFFC, speaking on behalf of the [West Fork of the Bitterroot](#), needs your help – and the need is urgent.

The increasing popularity of this fishery has resulted in ramped-up commercial use which, though unintended, has virtually crowded the private citizen-angler off the stream. In 2016 this little gem of a river saw some 1,600 commercial float trips over its 22-mile length. As a result roughly 75% of those who fished it do so less or not at all, according to a Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks survey.

More important, the habitat and fishery have suffered as commercial use has increased.

In response to public concerns FWP divided the West Fork and upper Bitterroot into four sections and limited commercial users to two floats per day on each section.

This year the commercial outfitters have asked to float through two sections per launch instead of one. This change would provide their clients with a better experience. It also stands to cause commercial traffic on the stream to virtually double beyond the current overload.

WFFC's ultimate concern is for the habitat and the fishery.

The use debate will continue for some time and is not currently up for discussion by FWP. However, with sufficient public input, FWP may consider The West Fork Fishery Conservancy's proposal to limit floating (and concurrent habitat destruction on the upper West Fork) as an offset to the outfitter's request for increased float miles. Otherwise, we oppose yet another concession to commercial interests.

If you agree, please write a short email to Mr. Randy Arnold and Ms. Sharon Rose of Montana's Region 2 FWP office, rarnold@mt.gov, shrose@mt.gov stating or rephrasing the following:

*I oppose the rule change concession to West Fork commercial outfitters to float through two river sections per trip on this already overused river, **unless** offsetting concessions are also made to protect disappearing bull trout habitat and quality of experience for displaced private anglers.*

Also, if you fish in Montana and/or have fished the Bitterroot River or its West Fork, please say so. Your civil and concise statements will count for a great deal.

And please, for our records, BCC me with your message. We will not publish or in any way compromise your privacy.

The deadline for public input is March 19.

Please do this now – it will take just a few minutes of your time. The regulations, once in place, are set to remain for five years.

For the West Fork Fishery Conservancy,
Jim Cline, Jeff Degen, Mike Hansen, Chuck Stranahan

Snyder, Jessica

From: Mike Canning <mike@mikecanning.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2019 5:21 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 06a,b (Canning, M)--Re: Public Comment in favor of the proposed Amendment pertaining to recreational use on the Bitterroot River

CAUTION: This email message may contain an unsafe attachment.

We scan email attachments for malicious software to protect your computer and the State's network. If we determine that an attachment is unsafe, then we block it and you will only see an attachment called 'Unsupported File Types Alert.txt'. If we cannot scan an attachment, then we provide this warning that the attachment may be unsafe and advise you to verify the sender before opening the attachment. If you don't see a file attached to this message, it doesn't mean that we blocked it, some email signatures contain image files that we cannot scan. Please contact your agency IT staff for more information.

Thank you Sharon. Seems like a common sense amendment.

Mike

Mike Canning

Canning Properties Group

831-596-1171 (cell)

888-474-3203 (fax)

www.mikecanning.com

CalBRE#01004964

Sotheby's International Realty

P.O. Box 223239, Carmel, CA 93922

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From: "Rose, Sharon" <shrose@mt.gov>
Date: Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 4:20 PM
To: Mike Canning <mike@mikecanning.com>
Subject: RE: Public Comment in favor of the proposed Amendment pertaining to recreational use on the Bitterroot River

Thank you, Mike, for your comments on FWP's proposed Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) amendment and new rule for the Upper Bitterroot-West Fork (UBWF) rivers commercial use permit. I've added your comments to those we receive and review for this proposal. And you're on the distribution list for any further info on this proposal, including the decision when it's issued.

Sharon

Sharon Rose

Comments Coordinator, Region 2

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

3201 Spurgin Rd

Missoula, MT 59804

Ph: (406) 542-5540

shrose@mt.gov

Montana FWP



THE OUTSIDE IS IN US ALL.

From: Mike Canning <mike@mikecanning.com>

Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 12:57 PM

To: Rose, Sharon <shrose@mt.gov>

Subject: Public Comment in favor of the proposed Amendment pertaining to recreational use on the Bitterroot River

Sharon, I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Again, I think this is a smart modification and am strongly in favor of it.

Mike

Mike Canning

Canning Properties Group

831-596-1171 (cell)

888-474-3203 (fax)

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CalBRE#01004964

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Snyder, Jessica

From: Snyder, Jessica
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 2:03 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 07 (Cote)--FW: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

From: James Cote <jaccapitalmanagement@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 2:02 PM
To: Snyder, Jessica <JessSnyder@mt.gov>; Mike Canning <mike@mikecanning.com>
Subject: Re: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Sharon,
Thank you for taking into consideration the changing of "float" to "launches", this makes imminent sense and should help to relieve some congestion at accesses.
I'm in favor of making the change and endorse it.
Thank you for your consideration

Sent from my iPhone
James Cote
President-CEO jaccapitalmanagement@gmail.com
925-787-4794 C
406-375-0005 D

On Feb 22, 2019, at 8:03 AM, Snyder, Jessica <JessSnyder@mt.gov> wrote:

<image002.jpg>

February 22, 2019

Dear Interested Person:

The Fish and Wildlife Commission is proposing amendments to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit administrative rules. The proposal notice outlining the proposed amendments is attached for your reference.

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Missoula, MT, 59804
e-mail: shrose@mt.gov
website: http://fwphIncmstst002.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/rules/pn_0274.html

Thank you for your interest in Montana’s fish, wildlife, and parks!

<12-508pro-arm.pdf>

Snyder, Jessica

From: Dick Bermingham <bermer24@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 23, 2019 9:36 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 08 (Birmingham)--Fwd: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dick Bermingham <bermer24@gmail.com>
Date: February 23, 2019 at 8:33:54 AM PST
To: Dick Bermingham <bermer24@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Sharon

Martha and I thank you for including us!

In summary we think this is a great modification and we are in favor of it.

It should relieve problems at several launch sites as well as help in high water times

Dick and Martha Bermingham

Sent from my iPad

On Feb 22, 2019, at 1:02 PM, Dick Bermingham <bermer24@gmail.com> wrote:

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Snyder, Jessica" <JessSnyder@mt.gov>
Date: February 22, 2019 at 7:03:10 AM PST
To: Undisclosed recipients;;
Subject: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

<image002.jpg>

February 22, 2019

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Thank you for your interest in Montana’s fish, wildlife, and parks!

Snyder, Jessica

From: Herb Depp <herb@ashlinranch.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 23, 2019 10:48 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Cc: Mike Canning
Subject: 09 (Depp)--I support the position of a

Modification to the regs for the West Fork of the Bitterroot River as proposed by Mike Canning. H

Snyder, Jessica

From: Tony Reinhardt <mttroutoutfitters@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2019 5:32 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 10 (Reinhardt)--Re: UBWF Permit Amendment

Sharon,

I support the proposed amendment to the UBWF regs. It should help with some of the issues experienced last season. Thank you.

Tight Lines,

Tony Reinhardt
Montana Trout Outfitters
Wild on the Fly Adventure Travel
6108 Raelene Ct.
Missoula, MT 59803
406-544-3516
<http://mttroutguides.com/>

Snyder, Jessica

From: Snyder, Jessica
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 8:46 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 11 (Miller)--FW: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

From: sylvia miller <bobnsylmiller@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 23, 2019 8:11 AM
To: Snyder, Jessica <JessSnyder@mt.gov>
Subject: Re: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Can you explain to me the effect of this language change?

Thanks,
Bob Miller

From: Snyder, Jessica <JessSnyder@mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 8:03 AM
Subject: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

FWP.MT.GOV



THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN

February 22, 2019

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Thank you for your interest in Montana’s fish, wildlife, and parks!

Snyder, Jessica

From: Snyder, Jessica
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 11:09 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 12 (Harness, J)--FW: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

From: Jeffrey Harness <jharness28@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 9:52 AM
To: Snyder, Jessica <JessSnyder@mt.gov>
Subject: Re: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Jessica,

I am writing in response to your email. My feelings about the restrictions aside, rich guys keeping the river to themselves, the dumbest thing about the restrictions are the use of the calendar to impose them. The Fish and Wildlife Commission should not restrict access to the West Fork based upon a date on the calendar. Current dates and limitations notwithstanding, all restrictions should be removed whenever the mainstream of the Bitterroot is flowing higher than 1900 cfm at Darby! When the water is high and unsafe and/or un-fishable on the mainstream of the Bitterroot, it's also completely unsafe to wade in the West Fork.

At any time the main stream is fishable, outfitters have other alternatives for their customers. However during high water(above an agreed upon cfm), the West Fork is the only safe place to float and there aren't any local wade fisherman risking their lives by being in the river on foot. I would have thought the Fish and Wildlife Commission would have put a higher emphasis on safety as opposed to bureaucratic convenience. I expected Montana to be more practical, and I hope you see this as a common sense approach. I am trying hard to use my brain instead of my heart when sending you this letter. My heart driven letter would be NSFW.

Best regards,

Jeff Harness

On Fri, Feb 22, 2019 at 10:03 AM Snyder, Jessica <JessSnyder@mt.gov> wrote:

FWP.MT.GOV



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February 22, 2019

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Missoula, MT, 59804

e-mail: shrose@mt.gov

website: http://fwphIncmstst002.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/rules/pn_0274.html

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Snyder, Jessica

From: Snyder, Jessica
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 7:46 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 13 (Mensik)--FW: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to BitterrootRiver Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

From: John <jgmensik@att.net>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 10:19 PM
To: Snyder, Jessica <JessSnyder@mt.gov>
Subject: RE: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to BitterrootRiver Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Thank you for sending this along Jessica,

We commented on the original proposal, and I was wondering if there was a way that we can review the monitoring data referenced in your email?

I would be interested to know how much use the different launch sites and stretches of the river received under the new way of doing business.

JGM

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Snyder, Jessica](#)
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 7:03 AM
Subject: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to BitterrootRiver Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

FWP.MT.GOV



THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN I

February 22, 2019

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The Commission is proposing the amendments to address concerns that were raised with the rules since their adoption in 2018. Concerns include:

- Section lengths are too short at high flows, when float trips easily extend into the next river section. As a result, commercial use is further restricted at high water since it takes multiple floats to conduct one trip.
- Using the “float” restriction encourages congestion at accesses at section boundaries. Using “launches” would allow floating into downstream sections that allow commercial use, so it spreads out use of the access sites.

The department analyzed the 2018 monitoring data and based on the data analysis and feedback provided, the Commission is proposing amending Administrative Rule of Montana 12.11.6302 to change "floats" to "launches," provide a definition for "launch," and provide a timeframe from June 1 to September 15 for the launch restriction per section of river for commercial use permit holders, instead of the restriction being year-round. The commission is also proposing to amend ARM 12.11.6306 to reflect the correct starting year that the five-year review is to occur, from 2024 to 2022. These amendments should ease restrictions on commercial users, spread out congestion at access sites, and not affect non-commercial use in restricted sections.

A public hearing will be held on March 19, 2019 at 6 p.m. at the Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor’s Office, 1801 North 1st Street in Hamilton, Montana to discuss the proposed changes and take public comment. Public comments must be received no later than March 22, 2019 and can be provided at the public hearing or in writing to:

Bitterroot River Recreation
Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT, 59804
e-mail: shrose@mt.gov
website: http://fwphIncmstst002.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/rules/pn_0274.html

Thank you for your interest in Montana’s fish, wildlife, and parks!

Snyder, Jessica

From: Withycombe Keith <fkwithy@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 2:34 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 14 (Withycombe)--Proposed Amendment to use of Bitterroot River

I would like to register my support for the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use permit. Replacing "Float" with "Launch" makes all the sense in the world. Thank you for helping keep our Bitterroot River one of the best fisheries in Montana. Keith Withycombe

Withycombe Keith
fkwithy@me.com

Snyder, Jessica

From: Eff Martin <eff.martin@sngwd.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 11:16 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 15 (Martin)--Public Comment in favor of the proposed Amendment pertaining to recreational use on the Bitterroot River

Sharon:

I think the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch” is very sensible and would be a major improvement. It would reduce traffic at a number of launch sites and provide significantly opportunity for mid-beat launches which in turn would smooth out the river traffic. It should also make it easier to adjust for high water conditions.

This proposal is an intelligent way to improve the existing regulations and I very much support it.

Thank you for your consideration,

Eff Martin

Snyder, Jessica

From: Jeff Degen <Jeff@ddseattle.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2019 11:48 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 16a,b (Degen)--Re: Comment - Proposed Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Thank you, Sharon.

Are you coordinating the meeting in Hamilton on Tuesday? Is it possible to secure a spot on the agenda to ensure that I can get a couple of minutes of floor time? I've prepared some information for presentation.

Thanks.

Jeff Degen
206 718-3060 cell
Sent from my iPhone while traveling

On Mar 9, 2019, at 1:00 PM, Rose, Sharon <shrose@mt.gov> wrote:

Thank you, Jeff, for your comments on FWP's proposed Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) amendment and new rule for the Upper Bitterroot-West Fork (UBWF) rivers commercial use permit. I've added your comments to those we receive and review for this proposal. And you're on the distribution list for any further info on this proposal, including the decision when it's issued.

Sharon

Sharon Rose
Comments Coordinator, Region 2
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

3201 Spurgin Rd
Missoula, MT 59804
Ph: (406) 542-5540
shrose@mt.gov
[Montana FWP](#)
<image001.jpg>

From: Jeff Degen <Jeff@ddseattle.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 5:17 PM
To: Rose, Sharon <shrose@mt.gov>
Subject: Comment - Proposed Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Re: Proposed Revision to UBWF Recreation Plan - 12.11.6302

Opposed

Dear Members of the Fish and Wildlife Commission:

I wish to express my opinion **in opposition to** the proposed amendment for the following reasons:

1. Further Commercialization of the WF

This amendment favors further commercialization of the West Fork. Although the original plan may have received input from a CAC, many of us believe that the interests of conservationists and wade fishermen were not fairly represented. The WF, particularly the upper reaches above Nez Perce, is a small and environmentally delicate waterway in comparison to the lower reaches and certainly to the Main Bitterroot. The impact of over fishing due to increased boat traffic is clear to all that fish the WF. The WF should be protected, not further commercialized.

2. Impact on Wade Fishing

Chris Clancy estimates that there are 52 commercial floats per day per section allowed on the WF. Compound this by a theoretical addition of 10 recreational floats per day = 62 floats per day. Over a typical 10 hour fishing day this equates to an average of 6 floats per hour. The majority of floats are started mid to late morning. Thus, it's likely that a mid-day wade fisherman might encounter 10 or more floats per hour during the prime hours of the day - one boat every 6 minutes! Under the proposed launch rule, this density could balloon to 156 boats per day on the lower segment of the WF - one boat every 4 minutes!

Although many consider this to be "astonishing, unlikely to occur," it is, in fact exactly what my experience has been for the past 2 to 3 years. During prime season I am typically interrupted every 5 to 10 minutes by a boat, oftentimes two or three at a time. On the upper reaches of the river the width of the river is only a few times wider than that of a boat. The boat literally consumes the width of the river. One could say move to another hole, but that's pointless - there will be boats there, too. The wade experience has been completely ruined.

Many argue that the plan reserves one stretch of the river wade fishing per week. One day! But commercial guides control the river the other 6 days. Gone are the days that the West Fork was a pristine environmental gem. The real data is being ignored. There really are fewer fish in the WF. They're smaller, and most of them are damaged from being hooked so many times.

It's time to refocus on conservation - not commercialization.

Jeff Degen
107 Painted Rocks Lane
Darby, MT 59829
206 718-3060 cell
Jeff@ddseattle.com

Snyder, Jessica

From: Jeff Degen <Jeff@ddseattle.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 4:44 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Cc: Oschell, Christine; Saffel, Patrick; Arnold, Randy
Subject: 16c (Degen)--Comment - Proposed Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Re: Proposed Revision to UBWF Recreation Plan - 12.11.6302

Opposed

Dear Members of the Fish and Wildlife Commission:

Please consider the following rebuttal to comments presented at the hearing that was held in Hamilton on March 19:

1. Reducing Congestion

The presentation made by FWP emphasized reducing congestion as the primary goal of the proposed amendment to change float to launch, yet no data or evidence of any kind was provided to support the presumption that this amendment would reduce congestion. To the contrary, I presented a mathematical analysis that demonstrated that the amendment would actually have the reverse impact - that congestion would be increased. See attached.

2. Impact on Wade Fishing

Waders and non-commercial fishermen were severely underrepresented at this meeting. The most astute comment that I have heard was that the average fisherman in the Bitterroot Valley has just given up. Sad.

3. Overwhelming Representation of Commercial Outfitters

Nearly every speaker supporting the amendment had a profit position to protect.

4. Assumption that the Fishery is in Good Health / Lack of Data

One speaker stated that the fishery was in good health and thus boat traffic should be allowed to continue on the upper Section 1. No data has ever been presented to support this presumption. The only data available is "word of mouth" catch records, all of which agree that the quantity of fish caught has been decreasing dramatically over the past three years. From my own experience, fish days that in the past produced 10 to 20 fish recently have produce 0 to 3. I have also noticed a distinct reduction in the number of native cutthroat trout and a decrease in small (8 to 10" fish) that normally would indicate healthy reproduction.

It is premature to assume that this fishery is not being impacted by increased usage.

5. Increased Usage

A significant detail that was almost overlooked during the presentation by FWP was that usage at most launch sites doubled over the past four years and at some locations increased by nearly threefold. Enough is enough.

6. Wade Fisherman

Pat Rogers spoke so eloquently when he said that no studies have been made to ensure that the wade fisherman gets equal access to the river. The CAC may have tried to address this, but they did not achieve equal access. Commercial outfitters now control 24 launch slots compared to 4 for non-commercial use. (4 sections x 7 days = 28)

Please postpone decision on this amendment until there is more supporting data available.

Thank you.

Jeff Degen
107 Painted Rocks Lane
Darby, MT 59829
206 718-3060 cell
Jeff@ddseattle.com

Snyder, Jessica

From: Oschell, Christine
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 8:58 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 16d (Degen)--RE: Comment - Proposed Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Hi Sharon- I answered this gentleman's question in person at the hearing.
Thank you.
Chrissy

From: Rose, Sharon
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 9:46 PM
To: Jeff Degen <Jeff@ddseattle.com>
Cc: Oschell, Christine <COschell@mt.gov>; Saffel, Patrick <psaffel@mt.gov>
Subject: RE: Comment - Proposed Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions
Importance: High

Hi Jeff,

I'm copying Chrissy and Pat on this email; they're in charge of the public hearing and I'll leave it to them to **specifically answer your question below**.

Not sure of the exact format for this meeting, but normally our meetings open with a description (by FWP) of the proposal, along with opportunity for the public to ask questions so they understand the proposal.

That would be followed by the formal comment period (public hearing portion) where the public may give testimony as to their opinion (and pass over written comments if desired). Chrissy or Pat can let you know if there will be a time limit on each person's comments.

Sharon

From: Jeff Degen <Jeff@ddseattle.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2019 11:48 AM
To: Rose, Sharon <shrose@mt.gov>
Subject: Re: Comment - Proposed Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Thank you, Sharon.

Are you coordinating the meeting in Hamilton on Tuesday? **Is it possible to secure a spot on the agenda to ensure that I can get a couple of minutes of floor time? I've prepared some information for presentation.**

Thanks.

Jeff Degen
206 718-3060 cell
Sent from my iPhone while traveling

On Mar 9, 2019, at 1:00 PM, Rose, Sharon <shrose@mt.gov> wrote:

Thank you, Jeff, for your comments on FWP's proposed Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) amendment and new rule for the Upper Bitterroot-West Fork (UBWF) rivers commercial use permit. I've added your comments to those we receive and review for this proposal. And you're on the distribution list for any further info on this proposal, including the decision when it's issued.

Sharon

Sharon Rose

Comments Coordinator, Region 2
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

3201 Spurgin Rd
Missoula, MT 59804
Ph: (406) 542-5540
shrose@mt.gov
[Montana FWP](#)
<image001.jpg>

From: Jeff Degen <Jeff@ddseattle.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 5:17 PM

To: Rose, Sharon <shrose@mt.gov>

Subject: Comment - Proposed Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Re: Proposed Revision to UBWF Recreation Plan - 12.11.6302

Opposed

Dear Members of the Fish and Wildlife Commission:

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1. Further Commercialization of the WF

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2. Impact on Wade Fishing

Chris Clancy estimates that there are 52 commercial floats per day per section allowed on the WF. Compound this by a theoretical addition of 10 recreational floats per day = 62 floats per day. Over a typical 10 hour fishing day this equates to an average of 6 floats per hour. The majority of floats are started mid to late morning. Thus, it's likely that a mid-day wade fisherman might encounter 10 or more floats per hour during the prime hours of the day - one boat every 6 minutes! Under the proposed launch rule, this density could balloon to 156 boats per day on the lower segment of the WF - one boat every 4 minutes!

Although many consider this to be "astonishing, unlikely to occur," it is, in fact exactly what my experience has been for the past 2 to 3 years. During prime season I am typically interrupted every 5 to 10 minutes by a boat, oftentimes two or three at a time. On the upper reaches of the river the width of the river is only a few times wider than that of a boat. The boat literally consumes the width of the river. One could say move to another hole, but that's pointless - there will be boats there, too. The wade experience has been completely ruined.

Many argue that the plan reserves one stretch of the river wade fishing per week. One day! But commercial guides control the river the other 6 days. Gone are the days that the West Fork was a

pristine environmental gem. The real data is being ignored. There really are fewer fish in the WF. They're smaller, and most of them are damaged from being hooked so many times.

It's time to refocus on conservation - not commercialization.

Jeff Degen
107 Painted Rocks Lane
Darby, MT 59829
206 718-3060 cell
Jeff@ddseattle.com

Snyder, Jessica

From: Jeremy Anderson <mtwildtrout1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2019 11:43 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 17 (BTU, Anderson)--Bitterroot Trout Unlimited Comment to FWP on the Upper Bitterroot West Fork Management Plan
Attachments: BRTU Bitterroot River Recreation Comment to Commissioners.pdf

To whom this may concern,

I am attaching a comment from the Bitterroot Chapter of Trout Unlimited regarding the proposed changes to the Upper Bitterroot West Fork Management Plan. If there are any questions or problems downloading the attached document please let me know.

Kind regards,

Jeremy Anderson
President Bitterroot Trout Unlimited



Bitterroot River Recreation

Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

3201 Spurgin Road

Missoula, MT, 59804

Dear Commissioners,

The Bitterroot chapter of Trout Unlimited was pleased to take part in the citizen advisory committee to prepare the Upper Bitterroot / West Fork regulations. As you may know 3 of our board members served on the committee. We believe the regulations are achieving the hoped for results and also agree that the relatively minor adjustments as proposed are appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JA" followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Bitterroot Trout Unlimited Chapter
Jeremy Anderson, President

PO Box 262
Hamilton, MT 59840

Snyder, Jessica

From: Nancy Canning <nancy@mikecanning.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2019 12:48 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Cc: Mike Canning
Subject: 18 (Canning, N)--In Favor of Proposed Amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit

Sharon, I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Thank you, Nancy Canning

Snyder, Jessica

From: Kathie Butts <kathie.butts@bhhsmt.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2019 1:01 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 19 (Butts)--Proposed amendment to Bitterroot River

Sharon,

I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Thanks!
Kathie

--

Kathie Butts, Broker - Hamilton Operations Manager

120 S. 5th Street Suite 201
Hamilton, MT 59840

406.363.8114 mobile

kathie.butts@bhhsmt.com



Snyder, Jessica

From: Paul Thomas <paulorann@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2019 1:16 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 20 (Thomas)--Fwd: PLEASE READ - IMPORTANT MESSAGE - UPPER BITTERROOT/WEST FORK REGULATIONS

Please note my support for the proposed Bitterroot restriction. I'm in favor of replacing "float" with "Launch"

Thanks for your good efforts on this issue.

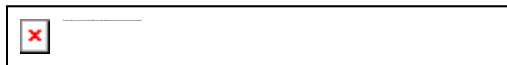
Warm wishes,

Paul Thomas

406) 375-8008

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Latitudes Outfitting Co.** <robert@latitudesoutfitting.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 6, 2019 at 11:35 AM
Subject: PLEASE READ - IMPORTANT MESSAGE - UPPER BITTERROOT/WEST FORK REGULATIONS
To: <paulorann@gmail.com>



Dear Family, Friends, Guests.....

We would like to share some good news and ask a favor. Due to the continued help of you, our clients, friends, fellow outfitters, guides and businesses, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks has decided to potentially make modifications to regulations on the Upper Bitterroot and West Fork rivers, changing part of the regulations enacted in 2018, effective 2019. It is a HUGE positive step in the right direction to encourage further change.

Latitudes Outfitting Co. is asking for assistance in a call to action that has a direct effect on how we are able to conduct our fishing business with you. Many of you were previously contacted about a year ago to ask permission and get your signature on an e-petition against, at the time "proposed" new regulations from the state agency, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks regarding the Upper Bitterroot and West Fork Rivers. Unfortunately, our efforts did not

sway the proposal and many of you experienced the regulations and limitations it created on our fishing days last season. Since last year we have continued to put pressure on the agency to ask them to rethink the management strategy and take into account certain criteria that change some of the less-than-beneficial management practices that are a direct effect from the regulations in 2018.

Below in BOLD, we have created a template that can be easily copied and pasted right into an email to Sharon Rose at MT Fish Wildlife and Parks that includes your name in support of an amendment (attached) to modify the current regulation. We have also attached a letter sent by the MT FWP that simplifies the language of the above mentioned modification and amendment process. We are respectfully asking you to copy & paste our template, fill in your name and send to the email link provided. It will take less than a minute to do. If you wish to write personalized comments, we absolutely welcome those as well. With your continued support we can get this done. Thank you and we appreciate any and all assistance in this very important matter.

Robert Gary
Owner/Outfitter

[FWP Administrative Rule of Montana 12.11.6302](#)

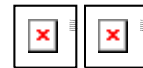
[FWP ANNOUNCEMENT LETTER](#)

Sharon, I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Please send comment to:

shrose@mt.gov

Latitudes Outfitting Co. |
www.latitudesoutfitting.com



Latitudes Outfitting Co. | 420 S 4th St. , Hamilton, MT 59840 www.latitudesoutfitting.com

[Unsubscribe paulorann@gmail.com](mailto:unsubscribe_paulorann@gmail.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by robert@latitudesoutfitting.com in collaboration with



Try it free today

Snyder, Jessica

From: Mike Farley <mfarley1@ix.netcom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2019 1:59 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 21 (Farley)--Regulations

Sharon, I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the "float" definition with "launch". I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Sincerely,
Dr F Mike Farley

Go Hawks!/Go Dawgs!
Tight Lines/Deep Powder
Sincerely,
Mike

Snyder, Jessica

From: John Moreland <dog@montana.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2019 2:11 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 22 (Moreland)--bitterroot

Sharon, I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

John P. Moreland, Hamilton

Snyder, Jessica

From: brian hadden <brian.hadden@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2019 3:16 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 23 (Hadden)--Westfork and Upper Bitterroot Commercial regs

Sharon- Would like to support your efforts in reducing commercial guide floats on the Westfork and upper Bitterroot Rivers. The Westfork is small tributary that has too much traffic during Salmon fly season and is borderline ridiculous the pressure placed on the fish populations. With increased usage with tourism to Montana and increased population there has come a time where restrictions have to be placed. Everyone needs to use common sense and rep their water. I have fished Montana, Wyoming and Idaho the last fifteen years and have seen the damage done by over fishing certain streams. There is no easy answer and I will suggest a few rules and observations from over the years that ave been implemented by the various states.

1. The Beaverhead River has restricted out of state fisherman on weekends to allow working Montanans to have less numbers on the weekend.
2. Snake River in Wyoming has limited guides and commercial floats to one ten mile stretch of the river. Commercial floats are not allowed any time of the year on the other 60 miles of river.
3. Southfork of the Snake in Idaho has restricted number of guides on every stretch of the river. This monitoring dilutes the fishing pressure over the entire 60 miles of river.
4. The blue ribbon trout streams in Montana should be catch and release only. If meat fisherman want to catch food to take home they should fish lakes that are restocked annually to replace harvested fish populations.

Regards,
Brian Hadden
Missoula, Montana
brian.hadden@hotmail.com
406-546-1468

Snyder, Jessica

From: Ken Haupt <haupterr94949@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2019 3:18 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 24 (Haupt)--Bitterroot River and West Fork tributaries FWP Administrative Rule of Montana 12.116302 FWP Announcement Letter

Sharon Rose

I have been fishing the Bitterroot River and West Fork and Tributaries for 34 years. During that time frame I have seen the number of fishermen increase dramatically! I have always practiced catch and release. I have noted that each year the number of fishermen who are not guided,[I presume local fisherman] primarily, practice catch and kill, all the time, no matter the size of the fish they catch!!!!

The policing of this practice is nonexistent by ANY Montana Conservation police. This is a terrible waste of young growing fish. These people kill any size fish they catch- ALL THE TIME!! WHY DO YOU ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN EVERY DAY??

I want to register a comment in FAVOR of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the"FLOAT " DEFINITION with 'LAUNCH' !

I think this will substantially relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, especially during periods of heavy use by fishermen,i.e. Holidays!

By changing this wording it will greatly HELP RELIEVE CROWDING AT SEVERAL LAUNCH PLACES AND GIVE FISHERMAN GREATER FLEXIBILITY FOR LAUNCHES,PARTICULARLY AT SOME OF THE MORE POPULAR LAUNCH SITES. THIS CHANGE IN WORDING WOULD, MORE LOGICALLY, REDUCE CONGESTION AT SEVERAL MID BEAT LAUNCH SPOTS!! THIS WOULD CERTAINLY, HELP, ESPECIALLY IN HIGH WATER CONDITIONS, LIKE WE WILL HAVE THIS SPRING. THIS ALONE, WOULD ADD A GREATER ELEMENT OF SAFETY TO THE FISHING ON THIS MAGNIFICENT WATERWAY!!

RESPECTFULLY

KENNETH C HAUPT

Snyder, Jessica

From: Dennis Lindquist <drlgolfer@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2019 3:19 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 25 (Lindquist, D)--Sharon, I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the "float" definition with "launch". I think this will relieve undue pressure at several lau

Sent from my iPad

Snyder, Jessica

From: Phyllis Lindquist <pjlgolfer@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2019 3:52 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 26 (Lindquist, P)--Use Permit

Sharon, I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Xoxo:o)US

Snyder, Jessica

From: Masenheimer, Keith A <Keith.Masenheimer@CenturyLink.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2019 3:58 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 27 (Masenheimer)--RE: PLEASE READ - POTENTIAL FISHING REGULATION CHANGE WITH FWP

Sharon, I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Thank you!

Keith Masenheimer

This communication is the property of CenturyLink and may contain confidential or privileged information. Unauthorized use of this communication is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the communication and any attachments.

Snyder, Jessica

From: Ryan Tellock <rtellock@paynewest.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2019 4:02 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 28 (Tellock)--Fishing Regulations Change

Sharon,

I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Thanks & let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Ryan Tellock
Hamilton, MT
406/381-4540

Snyder, Jessica

From: Robert Gary <406adventures@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2019 4:03 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 29 (Gary III, R)--UBWF

Sharon, I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Additionally I hope we can further these changes by considering new start and stop days for the regulations. Change dates for Rolling Closure to July 1st - August 31st.

The closure dates as currently enforced effect the entire guidable season on the upper river. This was felt more acutely than most this past year: With a high snowpack year June was immediately problematic as there was a two-week window in which the most upper reaches were the only ones consistently producing fish. Closing either Dam - Apple or Apple - Trapper Cr. during this time was especially problematic. It again became burdensome during late summer when Hannon to Wally was some of the best and safest water on the river. Monday closures on this stretch also prevented guides from putting-in at Lone Pine in order to reduce morning crowding at Wally Crawford. In addition after Sept 1st the traffic on the upper river thins out considerably, making the closure running through the middle of the month, when the river is mostly empty, unnecessary at best. Changing the date window as described will still work to restrict commercial and recreational floating access during the busiest season on the river while allowing more flexibility for the guiding community, specifically during high-water.

Thank you for your time and presenting this to the commission.

Cheers,

Robert L. Gary
Owner/Outfitter

Latitudes Outfitting Co.
Bitterroot Valley, Montana

Snyder, Jessica

From: Dan Ermatinger <dan.ermatinger@bhhsmt.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2019 5:04 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 30 (BHHS, Ermatinger)--Sportsman Input

Sharon,

I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Thank you,

Daniel L. Ermatinger
Broker/Owner
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
Montana Properties
1020 South Ave.
Missoula, MT 59801
(406) 360-3434
www.bhhsmt.com

Snyder, Jessica

From: Stan Anglen <headwatersflyfishing@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2019 5:06 PM
To: Rose, Sharon; Robert Gary
Subject: 31 (Anglen)--Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit

Sharon,

I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the "float" definition with "launch". I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Thanks
Stan Anglen
Guide
406-880-7710

Snyder, Jessica

From: KJ Kahnle <kj@beyondtheimage.biz>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2019 6:14 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 32 (Kahnle)--Upper Bitterroot and West Fork Rivers regulations

Hi Sharon,

Please note that I am in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Thank you very much for your concern in the matter that effects our rivers and how we enjoy them.

KJ

KJ Kahnle
406-360-5240
kj@beyondtheimage.biz
PO Box 46
Hamilton, MT 59840

Life should be an adventure that makes you smile!

Snyder, Jessica

From: Joseph Gary <josephmgary@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2019 8:31 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 33 (Gary, J)--In favor of proposed bitterroot river amendments

Sharon, I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Sent from my mobile

Snyder, Jessica

From: Nicholas Babson <nick@nmbabson.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 6:06 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 34a,b (Babson)--Re: Modifications to Regulations on the West Fork and Upper Bitterroot Rivers

Sharon,

Thank you for your response, and I look forward to receiving additional information on the new rules to include what I hope will be a favorable outcome.

Nick

On Mon, Mar 11, 2019, 8:54 PM Rose, Sharon <shrose@mt.gov> wrote:

Thank you, Nick, for your comments on FWP's proposed Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) amendment and new rule for the Upper Bitterroot-West Fork (UBWF) rivers commercial use permit. I've added your comments to those we receive and review for this proposal. And you're on the distribution list for any further info on this proposal, including the decision when it's issued.

Sharon

Sharon Rose

Comments Coordinator, Region 2

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

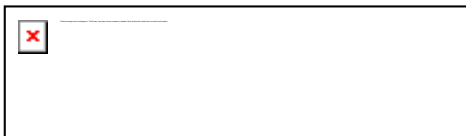
3201 Spurgin Rd

Missoula, MT 59804

Ph: (406) 542-5540

shrose@mt.gov

[Montana FWP](#)



From: Nicholas Babson <nick@nmbabson.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 7:32 AM
To: Rose, Sharon <shrose@mt.gov>
Subject: Modifications to Regulations on the West Fork and Upper Bitterroot Rivers

Sharon, I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. As a long time angler on both these rivers, I believe this will relieve the undue pressure I personally experienced at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Best regards,

Nick

Nick Babson

2028 Windemere Ct.

Missoula, MT 59804

406-542-7473 (h)

312-330-1946 (m)

Snyder, Jessica

From: Dennis Lindquist <drlgolfer@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2019 3:19 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 25 (Lindquist, D)--Sharon, I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the "float" definition with "launch". I think this will relieve undue pressure at several lau

Sent from my iPad

Snyder, Jessica

From: Phyllis Lindquist <pjlgolfer@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2019 3:52 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 26 (Lindquist, P)--Use Permit

Sharon, I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Xoxo:o)US

Snyder, Jessica

From: Ryan Crean <ryancrean@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2019 11:32 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 37 (Crean)--Bitterroot

Sharon,

I have been fishing the Bitterroot for the past 18 years, love every moment on the water. I know below is a cut and paste, but it's parallel to my opinion.

I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the "float" definition with "launch". I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Regards,
Ryan Crean

Sent from my iPhone

Snyder, Jessica

From: Henry F. Hunte Sr. <hhunte@hgfenton.com>
Sent: Friday, March 08, 2019 6:32 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 38 (Hunte)--comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit

Sharon:

I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”.

I believe that this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Thank you,
Henry Hunte
hhunte@hgfenton.com
619-261-6781

Snyder, Jessica

From: Jenny West <gowestoutfitters@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 08, 2019 9:41 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 39 (West)--FWP comment for Upper Bitterroot

Hi Sharon,

I want to submit my comment in support of changing the proposal language from “float” to “launch”. This change will alleviate over crowding at sections and launch sites and will not affect the non-commercial use sections. As a commercial outfitter, this change will help spread out traffic, access sites will be less crowded, and it will allow us to be more flexible with our floats.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jenny West
621 N. 4th Street
Hamilton, MT 5980
Go West Outfitters, LLC

Sent from my iPhone

Snyder, Jessica

From: Rod Boyle <rodboyle@stockfarm.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 1:15 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 40 (Boyle)--Bitterroot River

CAUTION: This email message may contain an unsafe attachment.

We scan email attachments for malicious software to protect your computer and the State's network. If we determine that an attachment is unsafe, then we block it and you will only see an attachment called 'Unsupported File Types Alert.txt'. If we cannot scan an attachment, then we provide this warning that the attachment may be unsafe and advise you to verify the sender before opening the attachment. If you don't see a file attached to this message, it doesn't mean that we blocked it, some email signatures contain image files that we cannot scan. Please contact your agency IT staff for more information.

[FWP Administrative Rule of Montana 12.11.6302](#)

[FWP ANNOUNCEMENT LETTER](#)

Sharon, I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

**ROD BOYLE - DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP
THE STOCK FARM CLUB
1428 STOCK FARM ROAD
HAMILTON, MT 59840**

**OFFICE . 406-375-1887
MOBILE . 210-825-0245
www.stockfarm.com**



Snyder, Jessica

From: Dudley Improta <dudleyimprota@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 1:18 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Cc: George Corn; Todd; FWP Commission
Subject: 41 (Improta)--Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

To FWP Region 2

RE: proposed changes to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Restrictions

- The proposed dates do not protect the commercial-free sections during some of the best fishing on the Bitterroot. While not the best spring stonefly fishing; the Hannon to Crawford stretch does have a "skwala" that starts in March. Privates and commercials alike know that September and October are some of the very best dry fly fishing on the Bitterroot. March 15 through October 15 would be better dates to have commercial restrictions.

- The rules were put in to restrict commercial use. Now, one season later FWP would like to "lessen restrictions on commercial use". FWP is also proposing to decrease by 2 years the rules are in effect. It's early to change things and the rules should stay in place for the years originally stated.

Citizen's days, or commercial - free reaches should be extended down the Bitterroot river. FWP claims they don't have the data. I worked on the state-wide river crowding committee decades ago. The "no data" argument was used then. One has to question why this hasn't been addressed for 20 years.

Region 4 put cameras on Lyons Bridge on the Madison last season (excellent idea). They recorded 100% outfitting on some days. On many days there was upwards of 90% outfitting.

Citizen's days are a good compromise; it gives the private user a reprieve from the competitive nature of commercial operations. It has worked on the Beaverhead and Big Hole rivers and would work on Region 2 rivers if given a chance.

Finally, it is worrisome how these proposed changes were developed. There were no meetings announced to the public. Informal gatherings of specific individuals to plot rule changes on public waters is not an open process.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Regards

Dudley Improta
Missoula, MT

Snyder, Jessica

From: Skip Tschantz <stschantz@divprop.net>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2019 3:35 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Cc: Skip Tschantz
Subject: 42 (Tschantz)--Bitterroot River Use

Dear Sharon:

I am a resident of Hamilton and would like to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Thank you for your consideration,

SKIP TSCHANTZ

DIVERSIFIED PROPERTIES
505 Lomas Santa Fe Drive
Suite 200
Solana Beach, CA 92075
Office: (619) 258-2900 ext 302
Cell: (858) 945-2375
stschantz@divprop.net
www.diversifiedprop.net

Snyder, Jessica

From: James N. Scott <jnscott@satx.rr.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2019 8:52 AM
To: Arnold, Randy; Rose, Sharon
Subject: 43 (Scott)--Re: Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Survey, FWP Region 2

Mssrs. Arnold and Rose:

My wife and I are residents of San Antonio, Texas. We were introduced to the Hamilton, Darby and Bitterroot area by my cousin, a Houston, Texas resident who has a summer home and vacations above Steep Creek Road, 17 miles south of Darby, off Montana Hwy 473, also known as West Fork Road.

We were introduced to the area in July, 2012 and fell in love with the Bitterroot Valley, the West Fork River and all the recreational opportunities the River offers.

Frankly, we have been alarmed with the noticeably increasing commercial fishing traffic on the West Fork, noting that it has increased dramatically since our first vacation there in 2012. We have vacationed in the Bitterroot Valley every summer following 2012.

We oppose the rule change concession to West Fork commercial outfitters to float through two river sections per trip on the already overused West Fork River, **unless offsetting concessions are also made to protect disappointing bull trout habitat and quality of experience for displaced private anglers.**

We appreciate the opportunity to express our view on this issue.

James N. and Mary Barbara Scott
251 Brightwood Pl
San Antonio, Texas 78209
(210) 415-2793

Snyder, Jessica

From: B P <brpound@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2019 8:58 AM
To: Arnold, Randy; Rose, Sharon
Subject: 44 (Pound)--The West Fork Fishery Conservancy's proposal to limit floating

Hello Mr. Arnold and Ms. Rose,

I'd like to let you know that I oppose the rule change concession to West Fork commercial outfitters to float through two river sections per trip on this already overused river, **unless** offsetting concessions are also made to protect disappearing bull trout habitat and quality of experience for displaced private anglers. As a private citizen angler, who has never utilized any commercial guided fishing services, I think it's important that these voices are heard and taken into consideration when deciding how to proceed in finding a balance for all to use this fishing area. I believe it is also important to recognize the impact, regardless of who, commercial and individual, on the fish within this section and consider how we can help conserve this habitat for the future of the fish as well as future anglers, like my 8 year old son who is just beginning his journey of fishing.

Sincerely,

Brian R Pound

Snyder, Jessica

From: michele dieterich <telechele@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2019 7:16 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 45 (Dieterich)--Bitterroot River Use Amendments

Where can I find the text of these changes to the Dec 2017 recreations regulations created for the Bitterroot River

Thanks for your time.

Also put me on the mailing list for further info concerning this.

Michele

Snyder, Jessica

From: Scott Holtzmann <sholtzmann@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2019 6:43 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 46 (Holtzmann)--FWP West Fork of the Bitterroot Decision-making

Dear Ms Rose

It seems to me that one season of the recent changes to commercial floating on the West Fork of the Bitterroot is insufficient to warrant changing the regimen agreed to by the interested parties prior to last season. I ask that you not consent to the commercial outfitters request to float through two river sections per trip - the West Fork is a popular and inherently valuable resource to be managed for broader purposes and access by more than just the commercial outfitters.

I moved to the area 4 and half years ago in large part because of the range of personal outdoor recreational experiences available and because of the environmental ethos that has taken root here to preserve, protect and manage the natural resources for multiple sustained uses. In that time period it has been a rarity that as a wade fisher I've been able to experience the solace and privilege of enjoying that stretch of the river without the train of commercial rafts that traverse the West Fork throughout the season. I'm not suggesting they be banned, but neither do I believe that I, and others like me, be denied the opportunity of the quiet enjoyment of an important and beautiful fishery. The accommodations reached last year with the full participation and in large part by the leadership of the commercial guides who now advocate this change should be allowed to remain so that their real impact on the fishery and the participant users can be determined over time - not after just one season.

I thank you for your efforts and would appreciate your consideration of this perspective in your deliberations.

Scott Holtzmann
5527 Riley lane
Florence MT

Snyder, Jessica

From: Ford Rollo <fordrollo@cox.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2019 3:32 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 47 (Rollo)--West Fork of the Bitterroot

Dear Ms. Rose:

I'm an avid angler with a history of a lifetime commitment to the fishing industry...through personal employment, 18 years as a licensed guide in Idaho, and a former member of the Board of Cal Trout, The Friends of the Big Wood River and a life member of The Madison River Foundation.

I have been appalled at the stories I've heard from local anglers and residents in the Hamilton, MT area about the abuse many commercial guides have wrought on the West Fork of the Bitterroot...by willfully altering habitat for their own advantage, by abusing private property laws, by being generally bad citizens driven by greed.

I therefore am opposed to the proposed concession to commercial outfitters on the West Fork to utilize both river sections on one continuous trip. This small river is already overused. In addition please give consideration to protection of the bull trout habitat, and new rules to enhance the experience for non-guided anglers and property owners along the river.

Thank you for your consideration.

respectfully,

Ford Rollo
PO Box 877, Ennis, MT 59729

...><((((((°> ...><((((((°> ...><((((((°>

Ford Scott Rollo
208-720-1417

Snyder, Jessica

From: Adam Daller <amortdal@bresnan.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2019 9:43 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 48 (Daller)--comment

Regarding the west fork of the bitterroot. Essentially, it is already too late and these minor actions you are taking will do little to save a dying river. We've been writing letters to you guys for years letting you know that this river is dying. Too little too late. Maybe think about some pre-emptive regulations on the east fork before all of the yahoos start floating and killing that thing too.

Adam Daller

Snyder, Jessica

From: Dan <danparks@cybernet1.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2019 12:07 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 49a (Parks)--COMMENTE LETTER ON PROPOSED ARM AMENDMENTS TO BITTERROOT RIVER
COMMERCIAL USE PERMIT RESTRICTIONS
Attachments: Arnold2.doc

Please find attached my comment letter on the Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions.

Dan L. Parks

March 17, 2019

via email shrose@mt.gov and US mail

Mr. Randy Arnold, Regional Director
Montana FWP
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804

REGARDING: Comments on Proposed Amendment Bitterroot and West Fork Recreation

Dear Mr. Arnold,

I am a wade fisher and have quit fishing the West Fork because it has become unfishable due to the boat traffic. The proposed amendment only increases the commercial overuse of the west Fork fishery. Why are commercial uses given preference over private citizen use of a public resource?

The West Fork is no longer the blue-ribbon fishery that it once was. How far will Fish, Wildlife and Parks allow it to further decline by way of overuse and habitat loss? Ben Franklin said “We will know the worth of water when the well goes dry”. Hopefully, the value of the West Fork fishery will be recognized before it is gone

My suggestions:

- Severely reduce or eliminate commercial use of the West Fork fishery.
- Implement barbless hook regulations.
- Take actions to rebuild the trout habitat.

I oppose the rule change concession to West Fork commercial outfitters to float through two river sections per trip on this already overused river, **unless** offsetting concessions are also made to protect disappearing bull trout habitat and quality of experience for displaced private anglers.

Very truly yours,

Dan L. Parks

247 Owings Creek Road, Hamilton, Montana 59840-9539

Snyder, Jessica

From: Gregory.case3@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 6:57 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 50 (Case)--Public Comment: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Name: Gregory Case

City: Darby, MT

As a property owner, taxpayer and long time fisherman on the Bitterroot I fully endorse the proposed amendment. It will do a better job spreading out boat traffic in a way favorable to all who use the river, guides and non guided fisherman alike...

This e-mail was generated from the 'Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions' Public Notice Web Page.

Snyder, Jessica

From: clee@seagisproperty.com
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 7:24 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 51 (Lee)--Public Comment: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Name: Charlie Lee

City:

I support the Proposed Administrative Rules Amendment to the Root Restrictions, I am gratified that the commission has advanced the first review date to 2022, and also hope you will remain flexible to prior review if actual outcomes (traffic, fishing pressure etc) warrant scrutiny. Thank you.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions' Public Notice Web Page.

Snyder, Jessica

From: Charles.Mcilvaine@gmail.com <Charles.Mcilvaine@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 7:36 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 52 (McIlvaine)--Public Comment: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Name: Charlie McIlvaine

City:

I support of a proposed amendment change to the Upper Bitterroot West Fork Restrictions that were passed last year. As I understand it, amendment is proposed to allow commercial boats to ?launch? in a section rather than ?float? in a section. This minor language change will help commercial boats spread out on the river by letting us launch at different sites with in the section, and will relieve any undue pressure on the river sections and launch sites and reduce crowding. This change will also accommodate longer floats during high water conditions.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions' Public Notice Web Page.

Snyder, Jessica

From: jarthur@airk.co
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 7:42 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 53 (Arthur)--Public Comment: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Name: JW Arthur

City: Philadelphia, PA

Writing from the viewpoint of someone who has been fortunate to fish the Bitterroot River for many years I think the commercial guides I have had the pleasure to fish with are reliable stewards of the river. Overly restricting them to artificially determined floats rather than allowing them to use their judgement to chart the most sustainable use will disincentivise thoughtful and creative use of the river harmonious with its ever changing flow. The guides have every reason to protect the source of their livelihood, let them use their judgement to interact most harmoniously with this beautiful river.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions' Public Notice Web Page.

Snyder, Jessica

From: jshoemaker@milestonepartners.com
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 7:44 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 54 (Shoemaker)--Public Comment: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Name: John Shoemaker

City:
I am fully supportive of this amendment. I have a vacation house on the river near Darby and come out with friends and guests to fish regularly. This amendment is a common sense proposal to fix what could become a serious problem for the fishing tourists and guides, particularly during high water.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions' Public Notice Web Page.

Snyder, Jessica

From: burtmchugh@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 8:58 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 55 (McHugh)--Public Comment: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Name: burton mchugh
City: philadelphia
i support the proposed amendment change.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions' Public Notice Web Page.

Snyder, Jessica

From: cconrad76@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 9:11 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 56 (Conrad)--Public Comment: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Name: Chad Conrad

City: Boulder

I am for the amendment. This minor language change will help commercial boats spread out on the river by letting us launch at different sites with in the section, and will relieve any undue pressure on the river sections and launch sites and reduce crowding. This change will also accommodate longer floats during high water conditions.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions' Public Notice Web Page.

Snyder, Jessica

From: michaelwest888@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 10:53 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 57 (West)--Public Comment: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Name: Mike West

City: Hamilton

I think the proposed amendments are a good idea! It will spread people out so we all can have a nicer river experience.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions' Public Notice Web Page.

Snyder, Jessica

From: ddenious@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 1:41 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 58 (Denious)--Public Comment: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Name: David Denious

City: New York City/Wilson, WY

As a long time fisherman on the Bitterroot, I support this.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions' Public Notice Web Page.

Snyder, Jessica

From: rrobinson@wjrincc.com
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 1:53 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 59 (Robinson)--Public Comment: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Name: Reed Robinson
City: ST. Louis Park, MN
To Whom It May Concern:

I have read the proposed rule amendments to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions and support the proposed changes. It seems like a good compromise between being too restrictive and having control on access to the West Fork of the Bitterroot River. We have been coming to the valley to fish this area for the last 35 years and were disappointed in the changes last year which limited access. As native Montanans living outside of Montana, it is our way of supporting the local economy and enjoying this beautiful part of the state. The proposed changes will make it easier on the guiding community to support their clients like us and still maintain a healthy fishery. I would recommend the change.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions' Public Notice Web Page.

Snyder, Jessica

From: andrewhfrench@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 4:36 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 60 (French)--Public Comment: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Name: Andrew H French

City: New York

I'm a New Yorker who tries to get to Montana once a year to fish the Bitterroot for up to a week, hiring local guide or two on drift boats, staying in a hotel or AIRBNB, renting a car and eating in Hamilton restaurants and who has been watching with trepidation the public debate regarding limiting access to my guide. I'm all for the commercial guides not being restricted at all, but this amendment seems to me to be a reasonable compromise, allowing the commercial boats the access they need while respecting the locals. I hope it passes.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions' Public Notice Web Page.

Snyder, Jessica

From: fishwithamy@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 5:15 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 61 (Schlatter)--Public Comment: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Name: Amy Schlatter

City: Missoula

I am writing in support of the proposed amendment change to the Upper Bitterroot West Fork Restrictions. I support the language change to allow commercial boats to ?launch? in a section rather than ?float? in a section. This minor language change will help commercial boats spread out on the river by letting us launch at different sites with in the section, and will relieve any undue pressure on the river sections and launch sites and reduce crowding. This change will also accommodate longer floats during high water conditions.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions' Public Notice Web Page.

Snyder, Jessica

From: Awcureton@gmail.com <Awcureton@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 8:50 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 62 (anon 1)--Public Comment: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Name: Abby W

City:

I think this will help commercial boats spread out on the river by letting us launch at different sites with in the section, and will relieve any undue pressure on the river sections and launch sites and reduce crowding. This change will also accommodate longer floats during high water conditions.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions' Public Notice Web Page.

Snyder, Jessica

From: grandstaff@cybernet1.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 12:21 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 63 (Grandstaff)--Public Comment: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Name: Carlotta Grandstaff

City: Hamilton

I urge FWP to amend the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions to allow commercial boats to "launch" in a section rather than "float" a section. This will ease congestion along the river by allowing commercial guides to launch at different sites within sections. It will also allow for longer guided floats in high water conditions.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions' Public Notice Web Page.

Snyder, Jessica

From: frazier@hollisap.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 12:22 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 64 (Hollis)--Public Comment: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Name: Frazier Hollis

City: Atlanta, GA

As a fly fisherman on the Bitterroot River since 1982, I have watched many changes. I strongly support the changes recommended in this amendment.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions' Public Notice Web Page.

Snyder, Jessica

From: Snicolarsen@msn.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 1:46 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 65 (Nicolarsen)--Public Comment: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Name: Scott Nicolarsen

City: Missoula

I am an outfitter that was strongly in favor of the new regulations on the West Fork and upper Bitterroot. I am happy that FWP did something to try and address the overcrowding that this section of river has seen in the last 10 years. I am also strongly in favor of modifying the current regulation to account for "launches" rather than floats. This is a logical change that makes it feasible for guides and outfitters to work in this area during high water times, while still striving to limit the overall traffic on the river. Thank you for considering this change.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions' Public Notice Web Page.

Snyder, Jessica

From: kmaxwell@montana.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 10:37 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 66 (Maxwell)--Public Comment: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Name: Kimberly

City:

I support the amendment! Being a Montana native and long term Bitterroot resident, I am supportive of an access approach, which spreads out the congestion...short intensive floats are like a damn.....more options for entry, with a longer run makes sense geographically. There is a more natural spacing that occurs when the length of the float has some distance. The Grand Canyon is a perfect example of how parties naturally string out, creating a sense of solitude. Once you launch, you may never see that party again....if you were all expected to float the same, and a short distance...you would be on top of each other for 18 days. It's simple physics and sociology. Even 2 sticks thrown in the river will naturally create a varied path... which would not be the case if you but a start and stop gate. This is about river flow and etiquette...not land owner opinion based on discomfort relating to seeing people on the river. Strangling the outfitter, does not eliminate river use. In Montana we have protected our public ownership of our water resources! The use of our rivers is a public right and asset, that deserves protection, for all residents, whether they are a private party or outfitter!

This e-mail was generated from the 'Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions' Public Notice Web Page.

Snyder, Jessica

From: lmassie2@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 8:35 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 67 (anon 2)--Public Comment: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Name:

City:

I totally agree with the amendments to the Bitterroot Commercial Regulations. I think the present regulation is unduly onerous to the commercial users and makes it very difficult for scheduling and actually increases commercial traffic in the stretches of the river that are open to commercial users. I am a frequent client of several commercial users and found that traffic was heavier last summer and did not interfere at all with wading anglers. They always have the ?right of way?.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions' Public Notice Web Page.

Snyder, Jessica

From: don@dc-wright.com
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 10:15 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 68 (Wright)--Public Comment: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Name: Donald Wright

City: Hamilton

I am writing to encourage the board to fully fund the necessary staffing to monitor and evaluate the commercial fishing on the Bitterroot River. I encourage the Board to consider a management fee on commercial guides and outfitters to offset the Department's costs to manage and track the regulate the guides and outfitters.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions' Public Notice Web Page.

Snyder, Jessica

From: caseyhackathorn@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 12:32 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 69 (Hackathorn)--Public Comment: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Name: Casey Hackathorn

City: Missoula

I participated in the citizens advisory committee on the West Fork and I support this rule change. The change will support the goal of reducing conflict by providing outfitters some flexibility to disperse their use while maintaining the existing cap on new permits and limits on daily use.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions' Public Notice Web Page.

Snyder, Jessica

From: aundie_runner@yahoo.com
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 12:58 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 70 (Underwood)--Public Comment: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Name: Alec Underwood
City: Missoula
Hello,

I'd like to offer my comments on the proposed amendments to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use permit administrative rules. As a member of the original BRRAC, I support the proposed rule change to use "launches" instead of "floats" as it pertains to the restrictions. The change would help alleviate congestion at access sites on the upper Bitterroot and allow outfitters the flexibility of floating into downstream sections that are open to commercial use. Our original intent of the committee involved having an adaptive management approach to help solve future recreation management issues. I believe this change is appropriate and will help reduce future conflicts amongst user groups. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

This e-mail was generated from the 'Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed ARM Amendments to Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions' Public Notice Web Page.

Snyder, Jessica

From: Jim Semmelroth <jesemmel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 9:54 AM
To: Rose, Sharon; Arnold, Randy
Subject: 71 (Semmelroth, J)--West Fork Rules Change

Sharon & Randy

Please consider the recommendations offered by the West Fork Fishery Conservancy. I support those recommendations. I oppose the rule change concession to West Fork commercial outfitters to float through two river sections per trip on this already overused river, unless offsetting concessions are also made to protect disappearing bull trout habitat and quality of experience for displaced private anglers.

Currently living in Missoula, my wife and I have a cabin on Boulder Creek to which we will retire in a couple years.

Thanks you for your consideration.

--

Jim Semmelroth
jesemmel@gmail.com

Snyder, Jessica

From: Cathy Semmelroth <cathysemmelroth@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 11:10 AM
To: Arnold, Randy; Rose, Sharon
Subject: 72 (Semmelroth, C)--West Fork of the Bitterroot

Mr. Randy Arnold and Ms Sharon Rose;

I am writing to you with concern about your proposal for the West Fork of the Bitterroot River. *I oppose the rule change concession to West Fork commercial outfitters to float through two river sections per trip on this already overused river, **unless** offsetting concessions are also made to protect disappearing bull trout habitat and quality of experience for displaced private anglers.*

Il support the alternate proposal made by the West Fork Fishery Conservancy and would urge you to thoughtfully support their proposal as well.

I am a Montanan native, currently live in Missoula and have a cabin on Boulder Creek. I plan to reside on Boulder Creek full time in the next couple of years. My husband and I are enthusiastic outdoors folk and cherish the West Fork.

Thank you for your time,

Cathy Semmelroth

Snyder, Jessica

From: montanamaiden2020 <montanamaiden2020@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 11:23 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 73 (Kimbark)--The Bitterroot River

I oppose the rule change !

The whole point of the Lord leaving Montana in our hands is to protect its land, lakes & rivers.

Letting more commercial outfitters in not only fills their pockets, it hurts the little man who have been raised on this river. And their families may depend on this source of income . Not to mention food.

The people paying for these commercial trips don't give a rat's about Montana.....

Their money gives them pleasure and believe it's their right to anything they please ***

I am Opposed !!

Sincerely, Paula Kimbark..

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Snyder, Jessica

From: Arnold, Randy
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 12:01 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 74 (DeYoung)--FW: West fork reg

From: Bob DeYoung <bdy164@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2019 4:32 PM
To: Arnold, Randy <rarnold@mt.gov>
Subject: West fork reg

Dear Mr. Arnold I have not wade fished the West Fork very much for 5 years. Until last year, it was much better without a raft coming by every 5 minutes. Lets keep it like it like it was last year. I cannot see any reason to change. It was sure better for me and my old friends.

Young

Bob De

Snyder, Jessica

From: Arnold, Randy
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 12:08 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 75 (Alt Ranch, Spinetta)--FW: West Fork Fishery Conservancy

From: Katrin Spinetta <altaranch@me.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2019 7:54 AM
To: Arnold, Randy <rarnold@mt.gov>
Cc: Chuck Stranahan <chuck@chuck-stranahan.com>
Subject: West Fork Fishery Conservancy

CAUTION: This email message may contain an unsafe attachment.

We scan email attachments for malicious software to protect your computer and the State's network. If we determine that an attachment is unsafe, then we block it and you will only see an attachment called 'Unsupported File Types Alert.txt'. If we cannot scan an attachment, then we provide this warning that the attachment may be unsafe and advise you to verify the sender before opening the attachment. If you don't see a file attached to this message, it doesn't mean that we blocked it, some email signatures contain image files that we cannot scan.
Please contact your agency IT staff for more information.

*We strongly oppose the rule change concession to West Fork commercial outfitters to float through two river sections per trip on this already overused river, **unless** offsetting concessions are also made to protect disappearing bull trout habitat and quality of experience for displaced private anglers.*

Alta Ranch LLC
Katrin and Peter Spinetta
altaranch@me.com
www.altaranch.com
Alta Ranch
9203 W Fork Rd.
Darby, MT 59829-8617
(406) 349-2142



Snyder, Jessica

From: Janice Anderson icloud <brishlabradors@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 1:49 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 76 (Anderson, J)--Proposed amendment to Bitterroot River Commercial Use permit

Sharon, I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Janice and Dennis Anderson

Snyder, Jessica

From: Arnold, Randy
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 3:55 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 77 (Heyden)--Fwd: Westfork proposed rule change

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: sherry heyden <sherannie@hotmail.com>
Date: 3/18/19 3:49 PM (GMT-07:00)
To: "Arnold, Randy" <rarnold@mt.gov>
Subject: Westfork proposed rule change

Dear Sir,

I definitely oppose the rule change concession to Westfork commercial outfitters to float through 2 river sections per trip on this overused river.

I live and fish on the Westfork and have concerns about the disappearing habitat for bull trout and the disappearing peaceful experience for us local shore and wadding fisherman and the tourists also.

Thank you,

Sherry Heyden

This email has been checked for viruses by AVG.

<https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.avg.com&data=02%7C01%7Crarnold%40mt.gov%7C63f635e2fce34ad36a2f08d6abeb8b28%7C07a94c98f30f4abbbd7ed63f8720dc02%7C0%7C1%7C636885425474052132&sdta=7lvIN0PEc17JV5XEmca4medVBzCWdOqZ91SeODJ643M%3D&reserved=0>

Snyder, Jessica

From: Naomi Gary <naomigary406@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 4:22 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 78 (Gary, N)--Comment on Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions

Good afternoon Sharon -

I would like to register my comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions which replace "float" with "launch." I think this will relieve undue pressure at several sites and create greater flexibility for midway launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration!

Cheers,

Naomi

Naomi Gary
Broker, BSW, GRI, CRS
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Montana Properties
406.240.2957

Snyder, Jessica

From: Neeltje van Doremalen <neeltjevandoremalen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 5:27 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 79 (van Doremalen)--Hearing tomorrow

Hi,

I believe it is a good idea to move the wording from float to launch. I think the dates set (June 1 to Sept 15) are too long, it just only be done at the busiest time of the year.

Neeltje

Snyder, Jessica

From: Rick Thomas <bodeetrout@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 5:47 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 80 (Thomas)--Launch

Hi my name is Rick Thomas, I am an Outfitter .

I have been outfitting on the stretches in question for about 30 years now. The change from stretch to launch will be helpful. It will not only alleviate pressure on the stretches by having boats float downstream rather than stop at every pool and wade fish in order to get in a full day of fishing, it will also help out not having to stop at a specific site that may be crowded and/or unsafe at certain water levels. I believe that this change would be beneficial to all parties involved. People need to keep in mind that we as guides cannot float through the closed sections. On restricted sections the change should not affect the wade fisherman or private boaters. Also if the public wants to fish the open sections, the change will help keep boats moving downstream, and not stopping in every pool available in order to get in a full day. I am for this wording change.

I am also for the car hang tags as it will help in tracking legal commercial usage.

FlyFishing Always

Snyder, Jessica

From: Sean <macnee@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 6:56 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 81 (MacNee)--West fork comment

Hello

I'd like to comment in favor of changing the language from float to launch for the upper west fork. This will alleviate traffic on the river and not affect the non commercial launch sites.

Thanks

Sean MacNee

621 north 4th street

Hamilton MT 59840

Snyder, Jessica

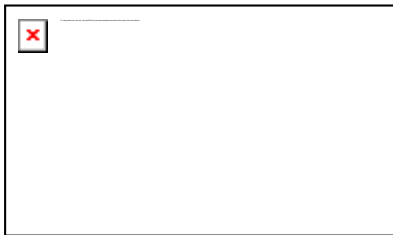
From: james mitchell <jim@montanahuntingfishingadv.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 5:56 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 82 (Mitchell)--Amendment to UBWF Regulation

I am writing to log my support FOR the amendment: replacing the word Floats to Launches, approve the launch definition. I am a local outfitter #9961 and private user. As this amendment will have no impact on the 4 sections closed to commercial traffic during the regulation season nor will it increase the total number of boats an outfitter is allowed per day on the UBWF. The change in terminology will relieve the congestion at the 1st launches of each section and help us spread out our use. This amendment will also help provide a better experience for the public that hires guides to float the UBWF.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter

--

Jim Mitchell



Montana Hunting & Fishing Adventures
870 Sleeping Child Rd.
Hamilton, MT 59840
Home (406)363-3510
Cell (406)360-7238
www.montanahuntingfishingadv.com

Snyder, Jessica

From: john k grobel <johngrobel0728@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 8:16 AM
To: Arnold, Randy
Cc: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 83 (Grobel)--West Fork of the Bitterroot

Dear Mr. Randy Arnold and Ms. Sharon Rose of Montana's Region 2 FWP office,

*I oppose the rule change concession to West Fork commercial outfitters to float through two river sections per trip on this already overused river, **unless** offsetting concessions are also made to protect disappearing bull trout habitat and quality of experience for displaced private anglers.*

In the past, I have fished the Bitterroot and plan to fish that very section this late summer and/or fall with local residents.

Thank You,

John K. Grobel
5817 Riverview Lane
Champlin, Mn 55316
Johngrobel0728@comcast.net
CELL 763-999-0563

Snyder, Jessica

From: Arnold, Randy
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 6:31 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 84 (Hendricks)--FW: Protect the West Fork fishery

-----Original Message-----

From: Dana Henricks <danachic@bresnan.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2019 10:23 AM
To: Arnold, Randy <rarnold@mt.gov>
Subject: Protect the West Fork fishery

Dear Mr. Arnold and Ms. Rose,

I have learned that commercial outfitters on the West Fork of the Bitterroot have asked to be allowed to float through two river sections per day instead of the current two floats per day on each section. I am opposed to this rule change. I used to fish the West Fork fairly regularly, but now only fish it maybe once a year, due to the increase in commercial outfitters. I would very much like to fish it more often with the hope of finding some measure of peace and solitude on this beautiful, over-loved little river.

Please either maintain the current rules or consider the proposal from the West Fork Fishery Conservancy, part of which includes closing the West Fork to commercial floating after June 30, from the dam to Marty's Bridge.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Dana Henricks
Florence, MT

Snyder, Jessica

From: B <dsflyfish@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 10:52 AM
To: Arnold, Randy
Cc: Rose, Sharon; chuck@chuck-stranahan.com
Subject: 85 (Swisher)--Westfork River

As per the West Fork Fishery Conservancy, We strongly disagree with guides floating through 2 sections of the West Fork River in Ravalli County. If they want more fishing time they can stop and wade fish. Also we feel guides should not be allowed to guide both days on the weekend on the West Fork. One day should be set aside for the people who live here in the Bitterroot.

We have fished the West Fork River for years. you hardly saw another fisherman. We have seen the Bitterroot River as well as the West Fork go from a wonderful river to float and sadly watched it's deterioration and don't even fish it ourselves.

Doug and Sharon Swisher
Corvallis, Montana

Snyder, Jessica

From: Taylor Kelm <taykelm@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 6:20 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 86 (Kelm)--Regulations

Sharon, I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Snyder, Jessica

From: James E Rokosch <jrokosch@cybernet1.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 2:00 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 87 (Rokosch)--Recreation use amendments on the Bitterroot River

I support the change from 'float' to 'launch', and for moving the timeframe for restrictions from year-round to a designated timeframe. However, I believe the timeframe should begin June 15, based on historical peak hydrographs and the MT Climate Assessment. I also believe the upper section should be shortened, with it ending at the FS 'Canoe' access site, rather than the 'Applebury' access site. I also have to question FWP's legal authority to restrict 'floating' versus 'fishing from boats' on the upper section.

Snyder, Jessica

From: Trevor A <trevoranderson406@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 3:07 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 88 (Anderson, T)--Upper Bitterroot /west fork Regulations

Sharon,

I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

I am a guide in the area, I can tell you that the regulations actually congested the west fork more than I have ever seen it. The “floats” were too short and changing them to “launch” would truly allow for more space for commercial and non commercial fisherman and would be better for everyone, including the fishery itself. Please adapt these changes to the regulations.

Thank you,

Trevor Anderson
Montana Guide #14516

Sent from my iPhone

Snyder, Jessica

From: Julia Troisi <jgtroisi@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 3:13 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 89 (Troisi, J)--Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit

Sharon,

I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Snyder, Jessica

From: Boone Hofman <bhofman22@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 3:19 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 90 (Hofman)--Comment

Sharon, I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Ben Lars <archer6967@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 3:27 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 91 (Lars)--Water

Sharon, I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Snyder, Jessica

From: Anthony VonRuden <anthonyvonruden@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 3:31 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 92 (VonRuden)--Upper Bitterroot Amendment

Sharon,

I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Thanks,
Anthony.

Snyder, Jessica

From: Rick D. Leggott <rickleggott@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 3:36 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 93 (Leggott)--Bitterroot permits

Sharon, I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Rick Leggott
M: 612-309-5722

Snyder, Jessica

From: bmolson17 <bmolson17@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 3:42 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 94 (Molson)

We need as many “comments” as possible to get this amended- it will greatly help Trevor’s business
And more importantly be better for the fishery and rivers.

Sharon, I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Snyder, Jessica

From: Paul Ehlen <Paul_Ehlen@precisionlens.net>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 3:43 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 95 (Ehlen)--Bitterroot River

Sharon,

I want to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches, reduce crowding and logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Sincerely,

Paul Ehlen
Hamilton MT

Snyder, Jessica

From: Claire Buehler <clairebear.buehler98@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 3:46 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 96 (Buehler)

We need as many “comments” as possible to get this amended- it will greatly help Trevor’s business And more importantly be better for the fishery and rivers.

Sharon, I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Sent from my iPhone

Snyder, Jessica

From: W Scott Green <wscottgreen@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 3:48 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 97 (Green)--Bitterroot commercial use Permit

Sharon, I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Thanks,
Scott Green

Snyder, Jessica

From: LARRY BOAN <boanl@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 4:03 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 98 (Boan)--Bitterroot

Sharon, I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Larry Boan

Sent from my iPhone

Snyder, Jessica

From: Terri Dudman <terriddudman@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 4:19 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 99 (Dudman)--River Issue

Dear Sharon,

I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”.

I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Thank you,

Terri Dudman
Bitterroot River Homeowner

Snyder, Jessica

From: Dom Schneider <dom@pmirep.net>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 4:21 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 100 (Schneider)--Bitterroot River

Hi Sharon,

I want to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Thank you!



Snyder, Jessica

From: ccody@humesmith.com
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 4:33 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 101 (Cody)--Bitterroot comment

Sharon, I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the "float" definition with "launch". I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Thank you.

Christopher D. Cody
Hume Smith Geddes Green & Simmons, LLP
54 Monument Circle, 4th Floor
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-632-4402

Snyder, Jessica

From: Katy Ehlen <ktehlen1962@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 5:11 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 102 (Anderson)--Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Comments

I was asked to forward these comments to you for Trevor Anderson from Latitudes Outfitters.

Sharon,

I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the "float" definition with "launch". I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Trevor Anderson

From: Mark Smithers <msmithers@tfewines.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 5:15 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Cc: Pamela Smithers
Subject: 103 (Smithers)--amendment to the bitterroot river commercial use permit restrictions - west fork of the bitterroot

Bitterroot River Recreation
Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Fish and Wildlife Commission of the State of Montana,

Dear Commission members, monitors, and decision makers;

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment to 12.11.6302 Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit Restrictions.

We are writing to voice our opposition to the proposed amendment to the word change from float to launch. We are quite concerned the proposed amendment will further increase boat / outfitter traffic on the West Fork. If the amendment is approved a very simple analysis suggests that all boats could put in at the upper reaches of the West Fork in the first section below the Painted Rocks Dam and float the entire length of the four sections. Even if floaters and outfitters put in at different access locations within the first (or even the second section below Applebury), the cumulative impact will be significantly increased boat traffic throughout the West Fork. The arguments for the amendment suggest boaters and outfitters will spread out and reduce congestion. It may be true that congestion will be decreased at the upper most access of each section; however overall and cumulative downriver congestion will be significant. Beyond the above obvious negative impacts, we make the following additional comments.

Currently boat activity is monitored/counted, but we were told there is no monitoring or counting of fish in the upper reaches of the West Fork. Given that no fish data exists for the upper reaches, we do not believe you can simply extrapolate data from the lower stretches below Job Corp and assume the changes in fish counts are the same. The upper reaches need specific fish data and now is the time to begin getting fish count data. Anecdotal information and comments from long lived landowners and long-time fly fisherman in the upper reaches of the West Fork must be considered as you cannot use current count data as a baseline since significant changes have occurred over the last couple of decades (increased boat and outfitter activity).

Bull Trout are a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Are you required to develop and implement programs to improve the population and lessen the likelihood of their decline or extinction? What programs are in place to comply with any requirements of the Endangered Species Act as it relates to Bull Trout? Increased boat and outfitter activity (doubling in 2018) is inconsistent with protecting and improving the Bull Trout population. A significant issue effecting Bull Trout in the upper reaches is the illegal removal woody debris that provides shelter and cover habitat required by Bull Trout (as well as other species). The penalty for illegal woody debris removal should be increased dramatically to deter these ongoing activities detrimental to the survival of this threatened species. Additional cameras in the upper sections should be installed along with warning signs.

Fish catch counts per fisherman are down. This means we have a degraded fishery. Increased boat traffic are depleting the river of fish. Data and data gathering techniques should be made public and discussed.

It has been suggested that wade fisherman counts are up but we have no information as to how this was determined. How were these counts developed? What was the population of days or periods of time over which the

counts took place? What is the base period used to determine or support wade fisherman counts are up? Data through meetings and communications with those living along the upper reaches of the West Fork provides that wade fishing is down significantly from a decade or two decades ago. Wade fishing is important to the outdoor and recreational industry and economy that supports Montana. Our neighbors tell us they simply don't go wade fishing in the West Fork anymore. Maybe your data collection should include whether these wade fisherman are locals or from out of state. These regulations were, after all, implemented due to local complaints about lack of access due to over boating.

The amendment also includes a correction to the review date. The restriction and regulations review date has been corrected to the year 2022. The review process needs to be broad based, thorough, and deliberate. As such, plans should begin now to develop the review process and information gathering. Assuming a subcommittee will be developed it must be more representative of the stakeholders within the West Fork River area. Landholders, waders, noncommercial floaters, and general recreationalists need to be represented in equal numbers as to outfitters. The prior committee was not well balanced and as a result the original regulation didn't decrease pressure on the West Fork activities (it actually had the opposite effect by doubling traffic) and the proposed amendment will further increase traffic and decrease the general enjoyment of the West Fork River experience and quite possibly will decrease fish population to a point of no return. Bull Trout in the upper reach are in a dangerous position.

Thank you for adding additional cameras, improving the outfitter float data, and the possibility of additional observers and monitoring personnel. All these items are sorely needed.

We love the West Fork of the Bitterroot. Unfortunately the general experience and certainly the fishing experience is degrading. Please do not approve the amendment language changing "floats" to "launches". Additionally, we encourage you to start the process of developing a very thorough and broadly represented review process sooner rather than later.

We are very appreciative of all your time and efforts and attempts to improve the situation on the West Fork of the Bitterroot.

Mark and Pam Smithers
6947 West Fork Road
406-349-2056

Mark Smithers | Senior Vice President, Finance
Trinchero Family Estates
Office: 1-707-302-3027 | Ext. 2612 | Mobile: 1-707-290-4508
msmithers@tfewines.com

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Snyder, Jessica

From: Cody Melchior <melchior.cody@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 7:26 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 104 (Melchoir)--Bitterroot comment

Sharon, I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Cheers,

Cody Melchior

Snyder, Jessica

From: Carie Eldred <carie3ldred@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 5:09 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 105 (Eldred)

Sharon, I wanted to register a comment in favor of the proposed amendment to the Bitterroot River Commercial Use Permit restrictions replacing the “float” definition with “launch”. I think this will relieve undue pressure at several launch sites, create greater flexibility for mid-beat launches to reduce crowding and more logically accommodate high-water conditions.

Thank you,
Carie Eldred

Snyder, Jessica

From: Oschell, Christine
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 11:20 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 106 (Olson)--FW: FWP NEWS Reminder: FWP Proposes Amendments to Recreation use Rules on the Bitterroot River; Hearing March 19 in Hamilton

Comment from Jim Olson below. Can you please incorporate this in with the rest?
Thank you!

From: Crowser, Vivaca
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 9:10 AM
To: Oschell, Christine <COschell@mt.gov>; Saffel, Patrick <psaffel@mt.gov>
Subject: FW: FWP NEWS Reminder: FWP Proposes Amendments to Recreation use Rules on the Bitterroot River; Hearing March 19 in Hamilton

fyi

From: James Olson <jwodentmt@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2019 12:22 AM
To: Crowser, Vivaca <Vcrowser@mt.gov>
Subject: Re: FWP NEWS Reminder: FWP Proposes Amendments to Recreation use Rules on the Bitterroot River; Hearing March 19 in Hamilton

CAUTION: This email message may contain an unsafe attachment.

We scan email attachments for malicious software to protect your computer and the State's network. If we determine that an attachment is unsafe, then we block it and you will only see an attachment called 'Unsupported File Types Alert.txt'. If we cannot scan an attachment, then we provide this warning that the attachment may be unsafe and advise you to verify the sender before opening the attachment. If you don't see a file attached to this message, it doesn't mean that we blocked it, some email signatures contain image files that we cannot scan.
Please contact your agency IT staff for more information.

I will not be able to attend and comment on the word changes as I will not be back from Kauai till March 21. I suggest that allow the launch change to be in affect until July 4 and then go back to floats other wise we are going to be back were we started. next do a plan on the whole river and you will get better distribution of user groups and reduce conflicts Jim O

In a message dated 3/15/2019 5:28:02 AM Hawaiian Standard Time, Vcrowser@mt.gov writes:

Please see this FWP news release from a few weeks ago; the public hearing on this proposal is coming up next week on Tuesday, March 19 at 6 p.m. at the Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor's Office (1801 N. 1st St.) in Hamilton and public comment is open through March 22.



FWP NEWS RELEASE

FWP Headquarters

1420 East Sixth Avenue • P.O. Box 200701 • Helena, MT 59620-0701

Media Contact: Greg Lemon • 406.444.4038 • GLemon@mt.gov

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US

Contacts: Chrissy Oschell (406) 542-5562; Pat Saffel (406) 542-5507

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—Feb. 22, 2019

FWP Proposes Amendments to Recreation use Rules on the Bitterroot River; Hearing March 19 in Hamilton

At its Feb. 13 meeting, the Fish & Wildlife Commission approved proposed amendments to the Bitterroot river commercial use rules for public comment.

In December 2017, the commission adopted administrative rules restricting recreational and commercial use of the West Fork of the Bitterroot River and the Upper Bitterroot River. The rules were intended to address concerns about congestion on the river and social conflicts between river users. The rules were based on recommendations of a citizen advisory council.

Based on feedback from CAC members and FWP analysis of 2018 data, the department is recommending amending the rule to change “floats” to “launches” and provide a definition of “launch.” The department is also proposing a drafting correction that would provide a timeframe from June 1 to Sept. 15 per section of river for commercial use permit holders instead of the restriction being year-round.

There are a few reasons for these changes. River section lengths are too short at high flows, with float trips extending into lower river sections. As a result, commercial use is further restricted at high water since it takes multiple floats to conduct one trip. Using the “float” restriction also encourages congestion at accesses at section boundaries. Using “launches” allows floating into downstream sections that allow commercial use, so it spreads out use of access sites. These proposed amendments will not affect non-commercial use sections and are

expected to ease restrictions on commercial users, spread out congestion at access sites and not affect non-commercial users in restricted sections.

Public comment on the proposed amendments will be accepted from Feb. 22 to March 22. There will be a public hearing on March 19 at 6 p.m. at the Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor's Office, 1801 N. 1st St., in Hamilton. Comments can be sent in writing to Bitterroot River Recreation, Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula, MT 59804, emailed to shrose@mt.gov, or submitted online at fwp.mt.gov and clicking on "Submit Public Comments."

-fwp-

Vivaca Crowser

Information and Education Program Manager

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; Region 2

3201 Spurgin Rd

Missoula, MT 59804

O: (406) 542-5518 | C: (406) 240-2004

[Montana FWP](#) | [Montana Outdoors Magazine](#)



THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Snyder, Jessica

From: Chuck Stranahan <chuck@chuck-stranahan.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 2:22 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Cc: Arnold, Randy
Subject: 107 (WFFC, Stranahan)--Proposed West Fork reg change -Please fwd. to Pat Saffel
Attachments: Alternate proposal draft fwd. FWP 3-18-19.docx

Hello Sharon,

I left a message on Pat Saffel's voicemail earlier today stating that I'd forward the attached to him.

As things are moving fast it is still a work in progress, but it represents the position of West Fork Fishery Conservancy, a new organization of around 200 members and growing rapidly.

WFFC does not have a website or WFFC email address and lacks the means to poll our membership, but in the past few weeks has heard from roughly 40 members who came out flat-footed against the proposal to allow outfitted float trips to run through two river sections instead of one.

These same people could accept the proposal if offsets to protect bull trout habitat in the upper West Fork and to set that same stretch aside from commercial float fishing after June 30.

Hearing initially from 40 people is significant; as of this morning the number is over 50 and growing, and all unanimous in support of the attached proposal.

Please include that data in your documentation and forward it along with the attached proposal to Pat. We wish to bring the West Fork Fishery Conservancy alternative into discussion tomorrow evening.

Please call or email me with any comments, suggestions, or questions.

Thank you,

Chuck Stranahan

West Fork Fishery Conservancy

Alternate proposal as presented to FWP on 3-18-19

Re: outfitted floater's request to float through two sections of West Fork per launch instead of the current one stretch per launch

The only item now under discussion by FWP is to consider a proposal by outfitters to allow commercial floating through two designated sections of the West Fork of the Bitterroot River instead of the current one section per daily float. This would be a reasonable and supportable if raised under equitable circumstances.

As-is, for the wading or non-guided floating angler, it stands to worsen the situation on the West Fork exponentially. WFFC sees potential future increases in outfitting presence, as currently distributed, will further exacerbate the tensions between private and commercial users. We wish to mitigate that, by bringing fresh thinking to the conversation in the form of an alternate proposal that benefits the quality of experience for all users.

At the same time, it addresses the need to keep habitat and resource conservation issues, particularly the restoration of prime bull trout habitat in the upper West Fork immediately below Painted Rocks Dam, at the forefront of the conversation.

After hearing from membership, WFFC therefore set out to draft a proposal acceptable to all parties, in light of the fact that under current FWP policies, ever-increasing commercial use of the West Fork at a projected 30% clip is a fact and will occur. The question before us becomes how to accommodate and distribute that use in a way outfitters and the angling public at large could accept, and at the same time address degraded bull trout habitat issues on the upper West Fork.

Our alternate proposal is ***unanimously supported*** by over 50 WFFC members, or a 25% random sample of over 200 members, as submitted without WFFC having conducted a poll or a canvassing of its members. It should be noted that the first wave of this input was ***unanimously opposed*** to what they saw as further unabated concession to commercial interests.

WFFC's position therefore, speaking for over 200 members, is to oppose the outfitter request to float through two sections per launch as it stands, except ***on the condition*** that it is moderated by as follows:

1. **Outfitters may launch, and float through two or more* (see item 2) sections as part of a modified plan also to include the following:**
2. **Close the stretch from Dam to Marty's Bridge to commercial floating after June 30.** The CAC's unedited "preferred alternative" called for closing the section from Painted Rocks Dam to Appleberry access to commercial floating after June 30. WFFC proposes that only the upper portion of that narrow stretch be once again treated as the CAC initially recommended. The WFFC proposal brings two more upstream accesses into play, one at Marty's Bridge and the developed USFS access known as Canoe, both upstream from Appleberry. Under our proposal outfitters gain more launch options to better distribute increased traffic, and the wading angler is allowed one short stretch free from a passing "daisy chain" of floaters. This area was once prime bull trout habitat that would likely recover quickly if wood removal associated with heavy floating traffic were reduced.
3. **Remove the daily closure on commercial floating on Mondays now in effect on the Hannon-Wallace Crawford stretch.** This gives outfitters the option to float this stretch every day, where

the river is typically wide enough to accommodate wade and float traffic. Public wade fishing on this stretch is largely limited to the three access points and conflicts are less likely than on the upper West Fork. At Wally Crawford, wading anglers can enjoy a full morning/early afternoon upstream from the access for about a half-mile before the boats come in. Darby Bridge wade access is more limited, but available afternoons and evenings without undue crowding from passing boats. Wade fishing is limited at Hannon.

4. **Daily closures to commercial floating on Saturday, from Appleberry to Job Corps, and Sunday, from Job Corps to Hannon, would remain in effect.** Per item 2 above, commercial floaters could launch at the developed access at Canoe, and the recently improved access at Marty's Bridge every day except Saturday. On Sundays the launches above Appleberry give the outfitter a longer float than the shorter float from Apple to Job. Staggering of launch sites on the remaining days would ease the congestion at rapidly increasing commercial use levels.
5. **In alternative to 4, above:** Saturday/Sunday closure on Job Corps to Hannon instead of staggered closures between the two sections, i.e. Apple/Job on Saturday, Job/Hannon on Sunday. This alternative would give outfitters the option to float from Marty's or Canoe rather than Appleberry downstream through the popular canyon stretch below Appleberry for seven days per week, and open the stretches above Hannon, popular for float and wade fishing with the general public, on weekends to both float and wade fishing. Between Job Corps and Hannon there are several wade fishing accesses in addition to the "high bank" access, which would give private weekend floaters two option to start above commercial floats launching at Hannon.

Rationale:

These proposals, taken as a whole, provides benefits to all concerned, and more important, facilitate the eventual recovery of prime bull trout habitat on the upper West Fork, which has been degraded coincidental with increased commercial use.

Outfitters only give up floating a portion of the upper stretch, where wade fishing has traditionally been available to the public at twelve roadside pull-outs on USFS land and at the USFS Rombo Campground. This is also the stretch where the narrow stream channel generated much previous wader-floater conflict. This is also where the topography causes downed trees in the waterway to frequently exacerbate the upsurge in "chainsaw banditry," the illegal removal of non-hazardous wood and destruction of prime bull trout habitat.

Removal of hazardous wood is another matter. A permit is required from the Bitterroot Conservation District and the process is simple, quick, and effective. WFFC's meeting with BCD led to FWP and USFS combining efforts to remove the old bridge pillar at Marty's Bridge, where drifting wood frequently collected and presented hazards. The bridge pool habitat is now restored, hazard-free.

WFFC strives to continue in that vein. Our mission is to bring agencies and user groups together to implement the best management practices that benefit the habitat and fishery, to provide a high quality experience for all West Fork users.

#

Snyder, Jessica

From: Chuck Stranahan <chuck@chuck-stranahan.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 12:18 AM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 108 (Stranahan)--RE: Proposed West Fork reg change -Please fwd. to Pat Saffel

Thanks Sharon,

Compiling and acknowledging the volume of comments you must be receiving must be a daunting task. I'll wait.

That said:

Please add my name *personally* and this comment to those who do not favor further concession to outfitters at this time viz. floating through two stretches instead of one, unless mitigating factors favoring habitat and the abused rights of independent anglers are concurrently set in place.

This seemingly innocuous one-word change unleashes a veritable doubling or worse of outfitted float traffic on the West Fork – the very thing the CAC committee and 2017 management plan were implemented to address. This seemingly small change reopens the use issue – like it or not.

(When I speak for WFFC, you understand, I wear a different hat.)

Thank you for your professional diligence and cordiality.

Best,

- Chuck Stranahan

From: Rose, Sharon [mailto:shrose@mt.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 11:04 PM
To: Chuck Stranahan <chuck@chuck-stranahan.com>
Cc: Arnold, Randy <rarnold@mt.gov>
Subject: RE: Proposed West Fork reg change -Please fwd. to Pat Saffel

Hi Chuck,

I just forwarded this to Pat Saffel and Chrissy Oschell. (I'm still compiling comments; will formally enter and acknowledge yours sometime tomorrow, hopefully.)

Sharon

Sharon Rose

Comments Coordinator, Region 2
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

3201 Spurgin Rd
Missoula, MT 59804
Ph: (406) 542-5540

shrose@mt.gov

[Montana FWP](#)



THE OUTSIDE IS IN US ALL.

From: Chuck Stranahan <chuck@chuck-stranahan.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 2:22 PM
To: Rose, Sharon <shrose@mt.gov>
Cc: Arnold, Randy <rarnold@mt.gov>
Subject: Proposed West Fork reg change -Please fwd. to Pat Saffel

Hello Sharon,

I left a message on Pat Saffel's voicemail earlier today stating that I'd forward the attached to him.

As things are moving fast it is still a work in progress, but it represents the position of West Fork Fishery Conservancy, a new organization of around 200 members and growing rapidly.

WFFC does not have a website or WFFC email address and lacks the means to poll our membership, but in the past few weeks has heard from roughly 40 members who came out flat-footed against the proposal to allow outfitted float trips to run through two river sections instead of one.

These same people could accept the proposal if offsets to protect bull trout habitat in the upper West Fork and to set that same stretch aside from commercial float fishing after June 30.

Hearing initially from 40 people is significant; as of this morning the number is over 50 and growing, and all unanimous in support of the attached proposal.

Please include that data in your documentation and forward it along with the attached proposal to Pat. We wish to bring the West Fork Fishery Conservancy alternative into discussion tomorrow evening.

Please call or email me with any comments, suggestions, or questions.

Thank you,

Chuck Stranahan

Snyder, Jessica

From: Steve Davis <sapphire@bitterrootcasters.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 5:06 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 109 (Davis)--Amendment to UBWF Regulation

1. I support the amendment replacing the word FLOATS TO LAUNCHES. This changes will provide a lot of flexibility to the guides and reduce congestion and enhance the fishing experience.
2. Would like to see the time period for the regulation changed from June 1 to July 1 - September 15.
3. I am a non-commercial boater and fly fisherman who actually regularly fishes the West Fork.
4. UBWF Regulation with fine tuning will continue to positively effect fishing on the WF.

--

Steve Davis

Snyder, Jessica

From: 1denniswing@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 6:42 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 110 (Swing)--FW: Amendment to UBWF Regulation

Subject: Amendment to UBWF Regulation

1. I support the amendment replacing the word FLOATS TO LAUNCHES. This changes will provide a lot of flexibility to the guides and reduce congestion and enhance the fishing experience.
2. Would like to see the time period for the regulation changed from June 1 to July 1 - September 15.
3. I am a non-commercial boater and fly fisherman who actually regularly fishes the West Fork.
4. UBWF Regulation with fine tuning will continue to positively effect fishing on the WF.

Thank you for working to make fishing on the WF an enjoyable experience for all and for years to come.

-- Dennis Swing

Snyder, Jessica

From: Steve Plumb <splumbtx@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 9:57 AM
To: Arnold, Randy; Rose, Sharon
Subject: 111 (Plumb)--West Fork of the Bitterroot River

Mr.Randy Arnold
Ms.Sharon Rose:

I have been a resident of Darby living on Mile 12.5 of the West Fork River for 20 years. The number of commercial guides, especially over the last 5 years, has grown exponentially and will continue to do so if a cap is not put in place.

The new regulation that went in effect last summer were the result of an agreement reached by a diverse group where all sides were represented. While no one was completely happy a consensus was reached. I am not in favor of changing it especially after only one year of operation.

Especially, I do not want the regulations changed where the change is heavily weighted on one side ie the commercial guides being able to float two sections on one launch.

If changes are made then some concessions ought to be given to the displaced private angler too.

I do not want to stop commercial floating. Many of them are my friends. I want the guides to make a living.

However, I am mostly on the side of protecting the resource for the good of all of us. To this end you might, in the future consider:

1) Limiting the number of commercial guides with preference given to historical use. This has been done in Montana before.

2) Using only barbless hooks. I can write pages on this topic from all the horror stories the fish have had to endure.

3) Including the West Fork when the hoot owl restrictions are put on other rivers in the area so everybody and his dog does not migrate to the West Fork.

Again the river belongs to all of us not just the commercial guides, and the wade fisherman and other private recreational users deserve consideration. A balance needs to be reached.

Thank you for all your efforts-

Steve Plumb

Steve Plumb
713-594-7092

From: Holly Sienkiewicz <holly_fryberger@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 11:36 AM
To: Arnold, Randy; Rose, Sharon
Subject: 112 (Sienkiewicz)--West Fork Bitterroot Outfitter-Guide Over-allocation and Congestion

Dear Ms. Rose and Mr. Arnold,

Please permit me to provide comment on the proposal to allow increased commercial outfitting and guiding on the West Fork of the Bitterroot.

My husband and I have owned property up the West Fork corridor for about 15 years. It is very special to us and our children. To be clear up front, we firmly oppose increased commercial use (either floating or wading) of the West Fork. Indeed, commercial use should be reduced if the natural character of the river and the health of its aquatic ecosystems are to be preserved.

We oppose increased commercial use for the following reasons:

- 1) Increased commercial use would degrade and perhaps ruin the West Fork's unique character as a wade fishery and small craft (canoe/kayak) paddle fishery. (There are very few rivers like the west fork that allow a relatively safe, accessible, and enjoyable paddle.) The West Fork is a small river, but carries enough water to float and paddle. This is rare in Montana. Few rivers of the West Fork's size are so easily floatable. In short the character traits of the West Fork are scarce, and should be protected for the broad public, not handed over to those with the wherewithal to pay an outfitter-guide service.
- 2) Increased commercial use would lead to elevated tensions and user conflicts on the water, at the holes, at put-ins, at take-outs, and so on. The West Fork is a tight mountain stream and down lower, a small tributary river. There is little to no room for boaters to spread out as it currently stands. Increased commercial use would inflame tensions. One cannot float by a parked boat or wader without disturbing the hole being fished. There is simply not enough room. Thus adding more commercial use is asking for conflict.
- 3) The West Fork is an ideal place for novice anglers and boaters. One does not need an outfitter or guide to discover this world class river resource.... adding more outfitters and guides to the mix degrades the experience for the general public which owns the resource.
- 4) The West Fork runs through a wilderness "cherry stem"- elevated commercial uses in the corridor run counter to the wilderness ethos of surrounding lands and waters. While we understand the corridor is not, itself, designated wilderness... elevated commercial use will degrade the primitive experiences that people have long sought from the West Fork corridor.
- 5) While we strongly support a recreation economy based in public lands and waters...the commercial outfitter guide lobby has a tendency to assert its will and forever change the character of America's public rivers. Take the Madison and the upper Yellowstone for instance. They are both overrun by commercial outfitters... and this lobby has systematically refused to discuss revisiting river management. This is to say nothing of rivers like the Colorado, where public citizens are all but excluded because public managers have lacked the will to prevent

privatization and dominance by commercial entities. Commercial entities' tendency toward inherent selfishness serves to steal the resource from the general public--who are not turning a profit from the public estate. Present and future generations lose out when outfitter and guide growth and dominance is left unchecked.

Last , thank you sincerely for your public service and for the opportunity to comment. I realize your job is difficult.

Sincerely,

Holly Sienkiewicz

Snyder, Jessica

From: Oschell, Christine
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 1:12 PM
To: Rose, Sharon
Subject: 113 (Hibala)--Fwd: Public Comment In Support Of UBWF Amendment(s)

Comment below

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Alex Hibala <ajaxx87@gmail.com>
Date: March 20, 2019 at 11:31:31 AM MDT
To: "Oschell, Christine" <coschell@mt.gov>
Subject: Public Comment In Support Of UBWF Amendment(s)

Good Morning Chrissy,

First off thank you for your time last evening coming down to Hamilton and hosting the public hearing. Same goes for Pat and Clint. I couldn't stay for the whole thing but from what I saw it seemed very civil, well intentioned, well organized, and at least somewhat well informed from those in attendance. It also seemed to mostly in support of the Amendments as currently proposed.

Of those that spoke at last night's meeting Eddie Olwell articulated it most clearly as to what the change in definition from "two boats per stretch" to "two boats for launch" would do for the commercial community and for crowding on the upper river. I am in strong support of the amendments as currently proposed. I feel it alleviates the crowding and congestion at access sites especially during high water season. As I mentioned during my comment at the meeting this reduction of crowding at launch sites also increases safety, both for those of us who are up there regularly as well as the general public. I feel it allows the commercial community to better comply with the regulations while not overly compromising the experience for our clients. I feel we can now more effectively work around each other to spread out pressure improving the experience of the upper bitterroot for all.

I would also like to comment on an emerging theme of opponents of the proposed amendment. This theme is the hypothetical scenario of all licensed outfitters and guides utilizing their access all at the same time. The "Max Capacity Scenario" if you will. I realize there is nothing to be done about alarmists speaking during these public meetings and I feel you and your dept are largely ignoring these comments for the obvious reasons: The amount of collusion and coordination necessary to get all 26WF or 53UB outfitters to put their boats on the same stretch on the same day is absurd. That this scenario keeps being bandied about as a real possibility undermines the hoped for impact that any kind of floating regulation would have, on both commercial and recreational access. What is their intended goal from this line of postulating? Zero float access to the upper river in the interest of zero competition for wade fishermen? I think it is at this point that the goals of this group differentiate themselves starkly from those of the commission and the recreational public at large.

Thankyou for your time. I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the revision of the UBWF regulation plan.

Alex Hibala

Montana Guide #11698

406 493 2010

Snyder, Jessica

From: Bob Driggers <bdriggersrcfwa@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 1:54 PM
To: Rose, Sharon; FWP Commission
Subject: 114 (FCFWA, Driggers)--UBWF Recreation Plan

Note# This Email Expresses the concerns of the membership of the Ravalli County Fish and Wildlife Association.

The Rules established on the Upper Bitterroot West Fork are a result of the Public outcry of too much congestion and conflict between outfitters and public Fisherman.

The CAC established to address these concerns worked hard on the issues but the final results were not what was expected.

When the actual numbers were posted it shows that in (All Areas) the number of fisherman on the UBWF increased ! (72%) Commercial and (28%) Public.

With 26 Outfitters allowed 2 boats per day in 3 sections and 53 outfitters allowed 2 boats in the 4th section , the potential for (1,048) Commercial boats with at least two fisherman in each boat on the this 30 mile stretch of upper Bitterroot each week, then add in an (Unknown Number) of Public fisherman ?

How will our Fish Resources and Habitat handle this amount of pressure and for How long ? ???

The section from the Painted Rocks Dam to Applebury designate for public wading on Fridays is where the River current is the strongest and it is also the narrowest part of the River.. The Waders have lost out.

Launch verses Float , It is recognized that some of the Outfitters don't like the idea of having to pull out at the Required stops. However, the rules have to start somewhere.

One Recommendation is to give the Outfitters two consecutive sections of the River during High Water June 1st to June 30th so they can float through for a reasonable distance . Then restrict them back to each section from July 1st through September 15th.

We have concerns about the Launch because just as described by an Outfitter at the Public meeting; Using a launch a Guide can pull ashore along any stretch of the River and swap out his customers and continue down River repeating that process up to 16 Fisherman or Customers in one Launch ??

In conclusion it is our hopes that FWP will look at establishing like Rules for the Lower Bitterroot River in the near future .

Respectfully Bob Driggers

Written Comment

Name: Russell Parks
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OUTFITTER #9928

THANK YOU FOR REVIEWING THIS AFTER JUST
ONE SEASON. THE WORK FROM THE C.A.C.
OBVIOUSLY DID NOT INTEND FOR THE FLOAT/LAUNCH
CONFUSION. ~~DUE TO THIS REASON~~

I SUPPORT THESE AMENDMENTS AND
APPLAUD YOUR EFFORTS.

Written Comment

Name: DEL Reynolds
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I attended your March 19th meeting. I also attended the first two organizational meetings regarding surveys results. Certainly something needed to be done to increase waders and still something needs to be done.

You only have been addressing or policing the floaters commercial/noncommercial. FACT! THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE TRYING TO SUPPLY THE DEMAND FOR SERVICES. THE GENTLEMAN WHO DID THE WIDTH OF THE RIVER ANALYSIS WAS RIGHT ON.

I support your continued effort to fine tune your ~~efforts~~ rules. The cap 53/26 needs to be lowered or the upper portion of the West Fork, to from dam to apple needs to be off limits.

Two days after the first meeting, I ran into Mr. Clancy and told him my opinion of why there are not as many bank or wader fisherman. You can't keep anything but browns. It used to be rainbows and browns. Native Montanans like to eat fish. But you can't keep the "sacred" cutthroat. Incidentally, I can't see records of any planting fish in river in over 30 yrs. Clancy said the rainbows had whirling disease and I said won't they infect c-throat? I think he said yes, if so change the regs and that might bring some fisherman back.

* Also if (floaters) outfitters/guides are responsible for recording and reporting statistics like their segments and number of clients. Have them record their catch by specie, approximate length. Much like the osprey recording we could have a method w/o shocking for fish population by segments.

My wife and I drive the West Fork Road All season, fishing and hunting. We observe lots of things, where people are wading, traffic from floaters (some are in too!! much of a hurry, dangerously so) we pull off highway in ^{these} many instances. Is this a result of crowding or just driver impatience?

Our encounters with floaters have been positive, in some or many instances, they never saw us!

One last note, maybe there should be two fishing licenses available. One for people who want to keep fish to eat or fish tags (we have to record our catch when we go to Port McNeil, B.C. on our licenses for halibut, King salmon and lingcod).

Finally, people that live in Hamilton (city) can only water lawns on every other day. Why can't floaters use this criteria. Just because everyone has a car with a license plate and can go (almost) anywhere doesn't mean an out-fitter should be able to.

LOST FISHERMAN

**WHERE DID THE MISSING FISHERMAN GO?
THAT'S WHAT THE FISH AND GAME WANT TO KNOW!**

**TWICE A SUMMONS WAS WAS SENT
MAYBE OTHERS WOULD KNOW WHERE HE WENT?**

**THE RESPONSE WAS CLEAR, FORM A POSSEE !
SO A SELECT FEW MET OVER COFFEE !**

**ONE FELLOW THOUGHT A MOVIE WAS TO BLAME,
OTHER CONCURRED, TOO MANY IN THE FISHING GAME !**

**MOVE FARTHER DOWNSTREAM, THEY SAID
AND GIVE HIM ROOM TO THE RIVERBED !**

**BUT ALAS, THE MISSING FISHERMAN WILL NEVER CAST,
CAUSE HE CAN'T KEEP A FISH FOR HIS SORRY _____**

OR

HE CAN'T GET TO THE RIVER WITHOUT CASH!